

## Reform opens way to group victim claims

### Compensation law could apply to ferry disaster

By Sheila Gann

The Lord Chancellor has decided to change the law so that victims of harmful drugs and big disasters can in future win compensation through the courts more quickly and cheaply.

The reform will enable plaintiffs to club together to fight for compensation instead of having to take action individually.

The move will be too late to help those disabled by the anti-arthritis drug, Opren, and their families to win compensation. But it could be introduced in time to benefit those bringing actions over the Herald of Free Enterprise ferry disaster and the King's Cross fire.

At present, court procedures

and the obstacles to receiving legal aid prevent "class actions", so that victims and their families face extremely long and expensive individual fights for justice through the courts.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, is preparing to give his blessing for a change in the law at the third reading of the Legal Aid Bill in the House of Lords on February 29.

It is expected that he will either accept an amendment allowing for class actions, drafted by the Law Society, or ask the Law Commission to draw up its own reform.

He has made known to colleagues his deep concern at the present dilemma facing plaintiffs, particularly those involved in the Opren case where 1,354 victims have been offered an average £1,800 each.

Lord Mackay hinted at a change in the law during an earlier debate on class actions, but insisted that he needed more time to "develop the thinking".

He and his officials are still considering possible loopholes in the Law Society's amendment, tabled by Lord Mishcon, a Labour legal affairs spokesman, and are known to be concerned that its terms might be too broad.

Lord Mishcon said yesterday that he would be delighted if the Lord Chancellor accepted his proposal. He said: "It is a very worthwhile amendment in the interests of justice, when suffering victims of a large number of people are involved or where you have product liability."

Class actions, which are common in the United States, are not permitted in British courts because of their different procedures. But the main obstacle is the cost.

The Law Society said: "We have been fighting a long-running campaign to change the law, particularly after recent tragic cases involving Opren and thalidomide. It would simplify procedures for the victims of these disasters who fight for compensation — in particular in helping with funding."

The amendment proposes an automatic entitlement to legal aid to a group of plaintiffs suffering the same tragedy if the High Court judge handling the case gives approval.

"Under our proposal, the new Legal Aid Board would avoid having to make the difficult choice of which individual should be the lead case. Our argument is that by avoiding the need for these individual cases, the proposal would be remarkably cost-effective."

Another staunch supporter of reform is Sir John

Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, who takes his seat in the Lords as Lord Donaldson of Lynton next Wednesday.

In his judgment on the Opren case (Davies v Eli Lilly & Co) he said: "Courts must be as flexible and adaptable as possible in the application of existing procedures with a view of reaching decisions quickly and economically."

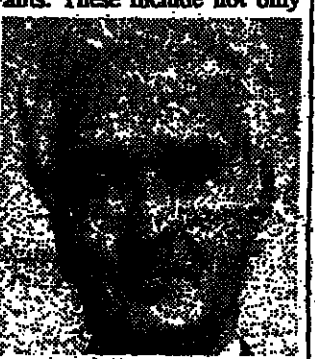
He described the legal aid procedures in multi-plaintiff cases, such as the Opren action, as creating "a grossly unfair situation".

He added: "Put simply, but for the present purposes wholly accurately, legal aid helps those who lose cases, not those who win them."

The Law Society commented: "Unfortunately, the Opren case clearly showed the misunderstandings of how the legal aid scheme works and that it was not the solution."

"Without any method of funding multi-party litigation, many groups of people do not have the means to take on large companies such as Eli Lilly."

"This amendment, if adopted, would redress the balance and mean more equal access to justice for groups of claimants. These include not only



The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay, backing change in law.

those with claims arising from disasters, or based on product liability, but also for those involved in a common dispute such as tenants on an estate or long-leaseholders in a mansion block."

Only a minor change to court procedures is needed to allow judges to hear actions brought by a group of people fighting the same case.

The proposed reform was disclosed only hours after the Opren campaigners attacked Mr Tony Newton, Minister of Health, for refusing to intervene on their behalf.

The 1,354 claimants have been offered less than £2.5 million in compensation. They appealed to Mr Newton to call on Eli Lilly to set up a £20 million trust for those affected. It would particularly help those who could not afford to fight for compensation through the courts.

Mr Newton said that the issue was still *sub judice* and it would be "inappropriate" for him to intervene.

## All the Queen's grandchildren



The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh at Balmoral with their grandchildren, from left, Prince William, Prince Henry (seated), Peter and Zara Phillips. This photograph by Karsh of Ottawa was used by the Queen and the Duke for their Christmas card. It is the first formal photograph showing them together. Karsh: The man who freezes fame, page 13.

## Microfilm fails to implicate Waldheim

By Michael Evans and Martin Fletcher

A copy of a microfilm sent to the Foreign Office this week by the United States which records the interrogation in Greece of British commandos by the Germans in the Second World War apparently fails to provide conclusive evidence that Dr Kurt Waldheim, the Austrian President, was involved, according to sources yesterday. Six of the commandos were executed.

The Alimnia file was originally a German document which was microfilmed by the Americans at the end of the Second World War. Foreign Office officials were adamant that they had never had a copy of the file until this week. The only files which had been stored and then destroyed related to correspondence and documents concerning one of the commandos executed, Sub-Lieutenant Alan Tuckey.

Mrs Thatcher said in the Commons yesterday that the file had been destroyed in 1978, in accordance with standard practice under the 30-year rule. Foreign Office sources said that there were only four files, all of them to do with Sub-Lieutenant Tuckey. Three were destroyed after 30 years as "of no historical interest".

Yesterday sources at the Public Records Office in Kew said that the one remaining file merely contained requests from the Foreign Office to the Control Commission in Germany after the war for further details about Tuckey's death.

The Alimnia file focuses on the interrogation of prisoners captured off the island of Alimnia in the Aegean in April 1944 and taken to Arosli, near Salonika, where Dr Waldheim was a junior intelligence officer.

Although the recent questions in the Commons, put by the Conservative MP and historian, Mr Robert Rhodes James, have mentioned six commandos, the present MoD inquiry is concerned with the files of 13 former members of the Special Boat Squadron.

The six known to have gone missing "presumed killed", after being captured, are Lance Corporal George

## Ulster police authority to meet over Hermon

By John Cooney, Martin Fletcher and Stewart Tendler

The Northern Ireland Police Authority is to meet in Belfast early next month to decide whether to pursue a disciplinary investigation against Sir John Hermon, Chief Constable of the RUC, and other senior officers.

The investigation would be conducted on the basis of a report from Sir Philip Myers, Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary. The 16 members of the authority also have the power to dismiss any case against Sir John and other officers of assistant chief constable rank and above.

But if the members of the authority conclude that there is a case to be answered they will appoint an officer to carry out further inquiries. This officer would report back to the authority. Any charges brought against the officers would be heard by a tribunal which would report back to the members of the authority.

The increasingly beleaguered Sir John yesterday received support from Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, as de-

bate about his future gathered momentum.

Support for Sir John came on a day when his police authority raised the spectre of yet another outside investigation into the RUC aimed at possible breaches of discipline by Sir John and officers in the Ulster police command.

An investigation being undertaken into junior ranks by Mr Charles Kelly, the Chief Constable of Staffordshire, Hermon at bay.

There was speculation in Belfast last night that this was the most likely scenario. Or, on the other hand, another chief constable could be brought in.

This would mean that within a month there could be two police inquiries into the RUC examining matters of discipline, the third and fourth in three years, after first the Stalker and then Sampson investigations looking at the alleged "shoot to kill" policy.

As the Northern Ireland Police Authority issued a brief

statement revealing the possibility of the inquiry into discipline, government sources insisted the Mr King retained the "utmost confidence" in Sir John. Earlier this week comments by Mr King in the Commons were taken as an endorsement of Mr John Stalker's criticisms of the RUC police chief.

Reacting to the latest developments in the affair, Mr Stalker said his investigations had only reached as high as chief superintendent level. There were questions he had planned to put to Sir John, his deputy Mr Michael McAtamney and an assistant chief constable but he was taken off the investigation before he could return to Northern Ireland to continue.

The answers to the questions, he said, might have involved matters of discipline but Mr Stalker refused to say what issues the questions covered. They were not included in his book.

There are 11 officers of senior assistant chief constable rank in the RUC.

Continued on page 22, col 6

## Land Rover strike set to go ahead

By Tim Jones and Craig Seton

The 6,000 Land Rover workers planning to strike from midnight tomorrow, just as Ford workers are preparing to return to work, were told yesterday that the company will not improve its pay offer of 14 per cent over two years, whatever the consequences.

The company is becoming profitable after years of poor results but the daily loss of 200 vehicles with a showroom value of £3 million is likely to undermine its position.

Mr Tony Gilroy, managing director, said: "We are at risk of losing business quite quickly. Business is about confidence and once people lose confidence the effect can be dramatic."

He told union negotiators yesterday morning that the "final offer" was, indeed, final.

Land Rover has been trying to dissuade some workers who may think that, in common

with Ford, the company could be persuaded to make more than one "final offer".

However, an appeal by the company for the union to hold a second ballot of its workforce was rejected and there are, as yet, no plans for senior national union officers to become involved.

Its offer was rejected by 66 per cent of the workforce in a ballot last week, but a management survey, which prompted a 30-minute walk out by several hundred workers, showed that 45 per cent wanted to strike with 44 per cent against taking such action.

The offer, when combined with attendance allowances and bonuses for productivity and quality, would increase the pay of a grade three worker from £175.80 to £186.50 in the first year.

Perforous road, page 4

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● With no winner yesterday, there is now £64,000 to be won in today's Portfolio Accumulator — as well as the £8,000 weekly prize.

## Record for societies

More cash flowed into the building societies in the past three months than in any previous quarter, as investors transferred money from shares after the October crash.

The inflow slowed down, however, with net receipts by the societies totalling £890 million in January compared with £1.07 billion in December and £1.13 billion in November.

The flow enabled societies to maintain a relatively high rate of lending. In the usually quiet month of January they undertook net new commitments of £2.88 billion compared with £1.9 billion in the previous month and £1.95 billion in January last year.

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## Freight sell-off

Employee-shareholders of the National Freight Consortium meet tomorrow to decide whether to seek a Stock Exchange listing. Shareholders include the chairman's six-month-old daughter, Emma Thompson.

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## On the quiet

Family Money details the extra cash on early retirement that went almost unannounced by the Inland Revenue.

Family Money, pages 28-34

## Skiing upset

Marina Kiehl, from West Germany, was the surprise winner of the women's downhill Olympic skiing title at Calgary yesterday.

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## Double-counting led to takeover mix-up

By Our City Staff

Blue Circle, Britain's biggest cement company, conceded defeat in its £275 million takeover bid for Birmid Qualeast, the lawnmower maker, after a recount of share acceptances. On Saturday Blue Circle claimed victory by the narrow margin of 9,000 shares from a total of 72 million Birmid shares in issue.

The recount was requested by the City's watchdog body,

the Panel on Takeovers and Mergers.

Blue Circle said yesterday that Hoare Govett, its stockbroker, had double counted a key block of more than 300,000 shares. The shares were offered to Blue Circle in the final stages of the bid — too late to be registered by its purchaser, a leading insurance company.

Blue circle rapped, page 23

## British raider finds a financial Aladdin's cave

By John Bell, City Editor

Mr Martin Sorrell took New York's advertising world on Madison Avenue by storm when WPP Group, his tiny British company, bought J Walter Thompson, the United States' fourth largest advertising agency, for \$566 million last summer.

Now Mr Sorrell, aged 43, looks set to do likewise at the other end of town — in Wall Street, the heart of New York's financial district.

He has discovered an Aladdin's cave of riches inside a company that was close to being broke when he took it from a clutch of competing corporate giants last year.

The JWT group's balance sheet showed net assets of minus £60 million and debts of £160 million

when WPP Group appeared on the horizon. Now he has struck gold in a far-flung corner of JWT's empire — Tokyo.

The advertising agency's office, in the Japanese capital, was in the books at a mere \$8.5 million (£4.8 million).

But last week Mr Sorrell secured an offer of \$175 million for the property and some experts say that if he cared to bid his time he may be able to sell it for \$200 million or more.

Mr Sorrell discovered the Japanese windfall on a whistle-stop tour of JWT's international operations shortly after his successful takeover.

The 10-storey building is not even located in the centre of Tokyo's financial district, where property

prices are among the highest in the world.

It nestles among the innermost suburbs of the city in a district known as Minato-Ku, three miles south-west of the Emperor's palace.

Since it was built in 1973, the 100,000 sq ft property has risen many times in value, but without apparently attracting the attention of JWT's accountants.

A sale could lead to a clear profit of more than \$100 million after paying capital taxes due under Japanese law and a transformation of the group's balance sheet.

But it is by no means certain that Mr Sorrell wants to part with his newly-discovered prize.

For according to financial analysts

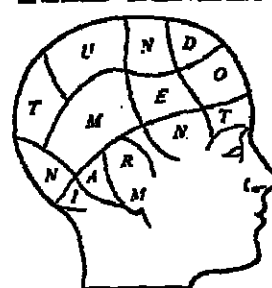
in London, who have been monitoring the progress of WPP, the new management has already made a good deal of progress in restoring JWT's financial health.

They say he has already released \$60 million of working capital tied up in JWT through good financial house-keeping.

Mr Sorrell is in financial purdah, until he reveals group profits in a few weeks and would not comment on the offer for the Tokyo office.

But the City expects his company, which only three years ago was a rundown manufacturer of supermarket trolleys, to turn in profits of £12 million for 1987. This year, according to City sources, he could make £30 million.

## THE TIMES



## TOURNAMENT OF THE MIND

Starting next week, *The Times* Tournament of the Mind will challenge all members of the family with a series of questions designed to test numeracy, logic, word power and general knowledge.

● The 100 questions, set by Mensa, will become increasingly difficult as the tournament continues. At the end of the first 20 days, the readers gaining the top 100 scores will be invited to join in the tournament finals spread over one week, to win the £5,000 prize. In the schools section, teams of up to 10 can compete to win an IBM Personal System/2 Model 38 computer.

● Meanwhile, try your hand at these general knowledge questions: What is a cuspidor? Which flower is sometimes called the Lent Lily? Which poet was called the Bard of Rydal Mount? Of which country is Romaine the modern vernacular language? In World War II who was known as "the Beast of Belsen"? (If you need the answers, turn to page 20, col 1)

## A drug which puts cheats a step ahead

Members of the International Olympic Committee medical commission fear that they may have fallen further behind in the battle against drug cheats.

It has been revealed at the Winter Olympics at Calgary that a new drug, called Erythropoietin, which is thought possibly to be in use as a performance additive, is undetectable.

Injections of EPO, as it is known, can replace and simplify blood doping — the removal of a quantity of a competitor's blood and its purification and re-injection.

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## NEWS ROUNDUP

## Four officers face escape inquiry

Four police officers are to be questioned about the escape of an alleged millionaire drugs dealer regarded as Europe's most wanted man, the Police Complaints Authority said yesterday.

The officers have received disciplinary notices after the escape of Nikolaus Chrasny who sawed through the bars of a security gate at Dewsbury police station in West Yorkshire last October.

The notices have been issued after a report on the incident by Sir Stanley Bailey, Chief Constable of Northumbria. The report has also been sent to the West Yorkshire Police Authority which is responsible for disciplining officers above the rank of chief superintendent.

Mr Chrasny, aged 44, was arrested eight months ago in London when customs officers investigating a £13.5 million cocaine haul raided his flat in Harley Street.

It was alleged at the time of the escape that corrupt police officers might have been involved in "springing" him.

## Plea for veterans Carrier in port crash

Nearly 100 MPs of all parties have called on the Government to pay immediate compensation to veterans of the nuclear tests conducted in Australia and the south Pacific in the 1950s who have since suffered from cancer.

They have signed a Commons motion which also calls on the Ministry of Defence to set up a judicial review after the National Radiological Protection Board report on the veterans concluded that there had been a "real hazard" for those witnessing the tests.

## VAT fraud charges

A director and secretary of a business school in London have been remanded in custody until March 11 by magistrates at Highbury, north London.

Frederick Rosner, the proprietor, of Lambourne Road, Chigwell, Essex, and Miss Marjorie Oloyede, of Danbrook Road, Streatham, allegedly returned a VAT account, with intent to defraud, which falsely stated that 277 students attended the London School of International Business at £250 a term while more than 1,400 students attended, paying £600 a term.

They were also charged when they appeared yesterday with conspiring together and with others unknown to arrange for various persons to enter the UK illegally.

## £23,000 swindle 10 years of incest

A former secretary has been jailed for crimes committed while employed by Lady Rothermere at her home in Belgrave, London.

Jane Durston, of Somerset Road, Southall, west London, admitted deception over goods worth more than £8,000 and forging Lady Rothermere's signature on cheques for £10,000 and £5,000.

Her husband James was convicted of deception and using the cheques.

Each was jailed for 18 months by Southwark Crown Court yesterday.

## £300,000 bill likely

A health authority may have to pay at least £300,000 over a case involving a surgeon paid £30,000 a year for the past three years to do nothing, pending an inquiry into allegations of professional misconduct.

The bill to be met by Trent Regional Health Authority, which has offered Mr Sharad Mahatme early retirement, will include the costs of an inquiry, expected to take eight weeks.

Mr Mahatme, aged 55, an ear, nose and throat specialist at Barnsley District Hospital, was suspended on full pay when the allegations were made.

## Private sector seeks hospital contracts

By Charles Kneivitt  
Architecture Correspondent

The Government is considering plans by the private sector to finance, build and manage hospitals for the National Health Service which would then be leased back and paid for out of revenue expenditure.

The proposal, which was put to both the Prime Minister and Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, this month, comes after a letter in *The Times* from Sir Edward du Cann, published last month, which outlined a similar idea.

The Treasury and health service managers have yet to express their views on the feasibility of a study prepared by a joint venture between International Hospitals Group (IHG), a health care consultancy and management company, and contractors Alfred McAlpine Construction.

The joint venture claims that it could raise finance, design and build

district general hospitals in less than four years rather than 10 or more years as at present. It says that 12 new hospitals, costing more than £400 million, could be built before the next general election by that method.

Negotiated "turnkey" contracts, whereby the appointed contractor provides design, construction, management, equipment, commissioning and finance, are common overseas, particularly in the Middle East and developing countries.

Mr John Sevenoaks, business development director of IHG, told *The Times* that the health service did not exist in a climate of rapid decision-making, unlike the private sector.

"The Department of Health and Social Security leases large office blocks from private property companies so why not hospitals as well?" he said. Hospitals could be provided immediately, while repayments would

be made easier through annual revenue expenditure.

"The Treasury exerts a dead hand on the public sector borrowing requirement regardless of the effects on the end-user," he added.

His company already provides support facilities for health service estates managers in about a third of the 14 health service regions in England.

The period of each lease would be negotiated on individual contracts. IHG had access to private funding "at very competitive rates".

He added: "We are looking for a commitment from government".

Mr Du Cann's letter, published on January 25, said that the Government's White Paper on public expenditure for the next three years made it clear that no more money would be immediately available for the health service.

Privatization of health service capital expenditure on new buildings had

been suggested in the House of Commons on several occasions in past years.

He said that sale and lease-back arrangements with private developers could save the health services "many hundreds of millions of pounds each year".

The health service has a property estate consisting of some 50,000 acres of land, some 2,000 hospitals and numerous other premises. The government, through the Department of Health and Social Security, is committed to improving the existing hospital stock and continues to fund capital expenditure on new hospital building and modernization.

A total of almost £3 billion (including fees and equipment) is already at various stages of planning, design and construction. That has been helped further by the recycling of receipts gained from the sale of redundant properties (£85 million during 1985-86).

## £100,000 a year to keep paralysed girl alive

## Health authority funds home care

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

A health authority has agreed to spend up to £100,000 a year to pay for a paralysed girl aged three to live at home on a life-support machine.

Alicia Leston-Rama was paralysed from the neck down in a road accident near her home in Cardiff, South Wales, 18 months ago. For the first 16 months after the accident she was treated in the intensive care unit at the University Hospital of Wales, moving to the children's ward two months ago.

She has to be on a life support machine 24 hours a day with round-the-clock nursing cover and is unable to breathe without artificial ventilation. However, later this year the hospital hopes she can return home, although she will still need specialist nursing care.

The hospital estimates that it has spent between £100,000 and £115,000 a year on her treatment so far. Mr Russell Hopkins, hospital general manager, said: "While Alicia was in the intensive care unit she needed over six nurses every day and night to care for her. Now she is in the paediatric unit the costs are gradually coming down as she is weaned off intensive care, but they are still about £100,000 a year."

The hospital has also paid £70,000 to buy two mobile ventilators to enable Alicia to breathe away from the main

ventilator by her bed. Alicia's family has already staged several fund-raising events to help to pay for extra costs when she goes home.

Ten years ago Alicia would never have been able to survive the accident as the appropriate intensive care facilities would not have existed. Using the latest technology doctors have brought her through two bouts of pneumonia and the mobile ventilators will now enable her to be cared for by her parents, Sandra and Jose Leston-Rama.

Last month the city council converted their home at a cost of £21,000 by knocking two council houses together so that the widths of corridors and rooms were widened for the wheelchair.

"South Glamorgan Health Authority has now agreed to pay for the cost of nursing her at home, through its community nursing service," said Mr Hopkins. The health authority had allowed up to £100,000 to meet her nursing needs, although it was difficult to estimate how high the costs would be. The costs of support domiciliary care would be met by social services, he said.

The hospital has managed to get extra funding from the district health authority to cover the capital cost of the mobile ventilators, but the nursing costs have been met within the normal intensive care budget.



Alicia Leston-Rama, aged three, in the children's unit of the University Hospital of Wales.

## Moore walks out on heart boy quiz

Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Social Services, walked out of a press conference last night after he was asked about comments made at the funeral of Matthew Collier.

Mr Moore, questioned by a local radio reporter in Kent, clamped his hand over the journalist's microphone and left the room.

Matthew, aged four, died on Sunday, four weeks after an operation that had been post-

poned three times because of a shortage of intensive care beds at Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Deacon Beryl Morgan, officiating at the boy's funeral at the Holy Trinity Church, Short Heath, West Midlands, yesterday, said that more money was undoubtedly needed in the health service.

She said: "All eyes and minds are centred upon the shortages of resources, both human and material, in the health service."

"More money is undoubtedly needed to treat people awaiting surgery for joint replacements, the transplant of organs and for other medical care in the wide ramifications from sickness to human fertilization."

Mr Barry Matthews and his wife, Pat, had appealed to the High Court and the Court of Appeal in an unsuccessful attempt to have their son's operation carried out more quickly.

## The Sun fined £75,000 for rape case contempt

*The Sun* was yesterday fined £75,000 plus costs for contempt in conducting a "trial by newspaper" of a doctor accused of raping a girl aged eight.

Lord Justice Watkins said in the High Court that the allegations against the doctor were so grave, and the headlines so prominent, widespread and savage, that it was claimed there was "recklessness" and an intention to prejudice a fair trial.

He added: "The need for a free press is axiomatic, but the press cannot be allowed to

charge about like a wild unbridled horse."

Sir Patrick Mayhew, QC, the Attorney General, had brought the contempt proceedings over articles on March 14 and 15 last year.

The newspaper funded a private prosecution by the girl's mother after the Director of Public Prosecutions declined to take action. The doctor was charged with rape and acquitted at his December trial.

Lord Justice Watkins, sitting with Lord Justice Mann, said the headlines in the

articles complained of, including "Rape case doc named", "He's a real swine", and "Beast must be named", could hardly have been bolder, larger or more prominent.

Mr Kelvin MacKenzie, *The Sun's* editor, had become convinced that the doctor was guilty, and was trying to persuade *Sun* readers to take a similar view. Some of those readers could have been on the jury to try the doctor.

"That is trial by newspaper, a form of activity which strikes directly at a jury's impartiality," Mr Desmond Browne, for

the defence, said Mr MacKenzie took legal advice before publishing, and named the doctor only after he had been named in Parliament.

The *Sun* had tried scrupulously to avoid being in contempt. This was not a case of Mr MacKenzie "sailing close to the wind".

The judge rejected the newspaper's request for leave to appeal to the House of Lords, but it intends making an application direct to the Law Lords.

Mr Tom Crone, the newspaper's deputy legal manager, said last night: "The judges

suggested that *The Sun* acted like a wild unbridled horse — in fact we published stories which were in accordance with the law of contempt as it was then universally understood."

"The court has drastically extended the contempt laws, and punished our 1986 articles for failing to comply with today's extension of those laws."

"The court has moved the goalposts. This morning's judgement will have an enormous impact on freedom of speech and the freedom to report in this country."

Law Report, page 34

## Arsonist theory tested at station

By Rodney Cowton  
Transport Correspondent

London Underground has carried out fire tests to discover whether an arsonist could have caused the King's Cross disaster.

The researchers tried to ignite a fire under escalator treads using matches, cigarettes and tissues.

Tests were carried out on Thursday night on a moving wooden escalator at Green Park station, which is similar to the ones at King's Cross.

Earlier experiments by the Health and Safety Executive were conducted on a stationary escalator.

The latest tests are believed to have indicated that the King's Cross fire which killed 31 people may not have started at the point where it was first noticed. Burning material may have been carried upwards on the track beneath the escalator treads.

The results of the tests will be reported to the official inquiry into the disaster which has been sitting for the past three weeks.

It has been said at the inquiry that the most likely cause of the fire was a lit match which fell between the treads and the side of a Piccadilly Line escalator, and arson has been regarded as very unlikely.

London Regional Transport and London Underground have, however, expressed concern that the possibility of arson has not been adequately examined. On the second day of the inquiry Mr Lionel Read, QC, spoke of the "very serious concern of LRT that an arsonist may be at large with a predilection for starting fires in the Underground".

Though London Underground confirmed yesterday that it had carried out the tests, it refused to disclose the results.

A few minutes before the blaze at King's Cross a burning tissue had been found on a Victoria Line escalator. The inquiry has not so far established whether the two events were related, but it is believed that Thursday night's tests included using a tissue to try to obtain ignition.

Two passengers at King's Cross have said they saw an unidentified man in blue overalls close to a hatch leading into the machine room at the foot of the Piccadilly Line escalators.

## Pay rise warning to industry

By Martin Fletcher  
Political Reporter

The Government warned British industry yesterday that it was "slitting its own throat" with excessive pay rises.

The warning reflects growing ministerial concern at a level of pay settlements which is now the highest for more than five years. Figures released on Thursday showed that the underlying rate was 8.5 per cent, well above the 3.7 per cent inflation rate.

Speaking in Manchester yesterday, Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Trade and Industry, said that pay increases "that bear no relation to improved performance are a certain way of slitting our own throat in the international market".

Referring to next month's Budget, he said that Labour seemed to think there were "billions of pounds sloshing around" and that all the Chancellor had to do was decide between tax cuts for the rich and more money for the NHS.

It was "grossly irresponsible" for them to encourage the impression that it was time for a big pay-out. The economy was doing well, but inflation was still too high, productivity needed to be improved and pay rises had to be reined in.

The Department of the Environment, which has responsibility for the Tower of London, said: "Any newly appointed chief executive of a private agency would still be accountable to the Secretary of State. What is likely to be looked at is the marketing side of things. Management objectives and a budget are likely to be given to people in charge of places like the Tower of London. It is too early to say what is likely to happen."

The Department of the Environment said the Tower usually breaks even or runs into the black but a loss was made in 1986-87 because tourist numbers fell during the Libya crisis.

"Nat West are going to have to decide whether they blame Andrew or me. Either they believe it was Andrew's fault that I got into the red or it was my fault. They cannot have it both ways."

Alexander MacLennan, who lives with his wife Christine at Mulholland Farm near Franche, said he had dabbled in stocks and shares for many years. He insisted that he was still solvent and could look forward to a comfortable retirement built up mainly from his savings while working in Saudi Arabia.

He disclosed that his son had been offered a new job which he expected to take up within the next few weeks.

SE check, page 23

## Germany:



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For these former warrant officers of the RAF and Army, the prospect of parading the frilled red and black uniforms of the Beefeater in the cause of cost effectiveness struck a raw nerve as Mrs Margaret Thatcher announced plans for turning government services, including the Royal Palaces, over to independent agencies.

"If they are thinking of turning this place into Disneyland with the ravens wearing stage jewellery, they should forget it," one Beefeater said yesterday. "We are just waiting to see what happens but no one here wants any major changes."

Colonel John Wynn, deputy governor of the administration of the Tower of London, agreed with the view expressed by his subordinates though was more muted: "It all depends on what you see as commercial," he said. "We are very limited as to size and scope as to what you can do. Part of the success of the place rests on things you cannot tamper with."

"If you think of the Tower of London, you think of the Crown Jewels — you don't need to advertise a heritage like that."

"Then there are the ravens and the instruments of tor-

## Civil Service shake-up

## Beefeaters fear Disney-style Tower

By Howard Foster

There was little in the demeanour of the Yeoman Warders of the Tower of London yesterday to suggest that they would welcome the attentions of a privatizing entrepreneur as envisaged in the proposed shake-up of the Civil Service.

For these former warrant officers of the RAF and Army, the prospect of parading the frilled red and black uniforms of the Beefeater in the cause of cost effectiveness struck a raw nerve as Mrs Margaret Thatcher announced plans for turning government services, including the Royal Palaces, over to independent agencies.

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ment in the provinces.

On Thursday the Government unveiled its plans to have 70,000 Civil Service jobs cut in new agencies in an attempt to improve efficiency.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Minister for Trade and Industry, detailed the relocation plans in a Commons written reply.

Mr Clarke said 148 Insolvency Service staff posts will be switched from the capital to Birmingham.

Young people and old alike seem to like that side of things and everything is here already and has its historical place. We do try to give value for money," Colonel Wynn said.

The Tower charges a £3 entry fee for adults.

Colonel Wynn told *The Times* that he was trying to persuade the Department of the Environment that more towers at the castle should be opened up.

"We need more of them

## Bank's dilemma over father, son, and £3m loss

By Kerry Gill

Mr Alexander MacLennan, who the National Westminster Bank says owes it £3 million over a stock market deal which went wrong, spent yesterday tending his bedding plants and looking after the 20,000 worms he intends to breed.

Mr MacLennan, aged 56, a former oil company executive, denies that he owes Nat West a penny.

He agreed for the first time to speak about the deal after returning from a jog across the fields that surround his smallholding near Franche in Fife. The deal led to his son, Andrew, aged 25, being dismissed from his £30,000

job as an equity salesman employed by Nat West.

Alexander MacLennan said: "Whether we owe £3 million to the bank or whether the bank were responsible for generating the loss is a matter for dispute."

County Nat West says that it has not yet come to a decision on whether it will sue Mr MacLennan or his son. The bank has sent a confidential report on the episode to the Stock Exchange's surveillance department.

Mr MacLennan, who retired from the oil business in December 1986, opened a private traded options account which was handled by his son. However, Andrew MacLennan was

told to stop trading when the stock market crash happened.

It is believed that the National Westminster Bank earned some £115,000 in commission within nine months but after the crash that was turned into a £3 million loss.

Yesterday Alexander MacLennan said: "The bank said to stop all private traded option accounts. Andrew said he would have to trade but was told that the account was in the red and he was asked what he was going to do about it."

Mr MacLennan said his son, who lived in London, was told that he had run a private client into the red and that was why he was being dismissed.

"Nat West are going to have to decide whether they blame Andrew or me. Either they believe it was Andrew's fault that I got into the red or it was my fault. They cannot have it both ways."

Alexander MacLennan, who lives with his wife Christine at Mulholland Farm near Franche, said he had dabbled in stocks and shares for many years. He insisted that he was still solvent and could look forward to a comfortable retirement built up mainly from his savings while working in Saudi Arabia.

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## Anderton's job safe after new pledge to avoid controversy

By Ian Smith

Mr James Anderton, Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, yesterday bowed to his critics and agreed not to make public statements likely to cause controversy.

He agreed that if he is uncertain about the likely reaction to anything he might say, he will first consult Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary.

Mr Anderton's fresh undertaking was accepted by the Greater Manchester Police Authority, some members of which had wanted Mr Anderton to resign or be disciplined.

After a widely reported reaction last year, when he talked about AIDS sufferers in a "cesspool of their own making", Mr Anderton was summoned to two meetings at the Home Office with the chairman and vice-chairman of his police authority.

After a debate he signed a tripartite agreement on January 27 last year that he would work together with the police authority to avoid unnecessary controversy.

He also undertook to meet regularly with the police authority chairman to discuss matters of common interest so that each was aware in advance of any developments which might give rise to concern.

However, in an interview with *Woman's Own* at Christmas, Mr Anderton spoke of

performing his duty by meeting Home Office and police authority representatives but insisted he had not made any promises.

It was this which infuriated police authority members who saw it as an example of the Chief Constable's readiness to flout the tripartite agreement.

The authority set up a disciplinary committee which took counsel's advice on legal action against Mr Anderton.

The committee was told the statement was too vague to be legally enforceable.

It had been a declaration of intent rather than a binding agreement to which legal effect could be given.

At their first meeting with senior Home Office officials, members of the disciplinary committee expressed concern that the spirit of the agreement had been broken.

They also told Home Office officials and the chief inspector of constabulary, Sir Richard Barrett, that since the authority's inception in April 1986, it was thought the Chief Constable had gradually become more and more involved in public controversies or matters which were not remotely connected with police duties.

The Home Office panel was told that the duty of the authority to provide and maintain an efficient police

force was being adversely affected by the publicity which Mr Anderton had either sought or invited — or felt unable to resist.

Seven weeks of speculation over Mr Anderton's future ended within five minutes of the start of the full police authority meeting yesterday when it accepted the contents of a Home Office letter which had been agreed by Mr Anderton.

The letter speaks of a Home Office declaration to assist in nurturing mutual trust and confidence which needed to exist between every police authority and its chief constable.

Mr Anderton had expressed great regret that the *Woman's Own* interview may have caused controversy but was adamant that no snub or discourtesy was intended either to the police authority or Home Office.

To prevent any future misunderstanding, Mr Anderton accepted he must not make public statements or comments calculated or likely to provoke damaging controversy.

Mr Anderton was optimistic about the future. Smiling broadly as he left the police authority headquarters in Swinton, he said: "Today is the first day of the rest of my police career. I am very happy."

## Fame hanging in the balance



The statue of Fame hanging from a crane as she was removed yesterday from Wilton House, Wiltshire, where she has stood for 400 years. Restoration work may include the replacement of her famous trumpets, weathered away from each hand but not before prompting the expression "blowing your own trumpet" (Photograph Chris Harris).

## 'Peeping Tom' is jailed for life

A man who became a "Peeping Tom" when his marriage of nine days collapsed on his finding his wife in bed with another man was jailed for life yesterday at Stafford Crown Court, after admitting murder.

Joseph Taylor, aged 46, of Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, fantasized about making love to other women and developed a fascination for watching other couples having sex, he told police.

He stole women's underwear from washing lines and collected pornographic books.

When detectives searched his flat at a hostel for homeless Christians, they also discovered a collection of photographs he had taken from his bedroom window of local women walking by.

Taylor lured Justine Harley, aged 16, into the Methodist Church, in Tunstall, Stoke, where he worked as an odd job man, before indecently assaulting and strangling her.

After his arrest he told police of his sexual fantasies and urged which he was unable to control despite previously having female hormone treatment.

Prior to the murder of Justine, a choirgirl at the church, he had felt that sooner rather than later he was likely to commit a serious sexual offence.

He wrote to a prison doctor asking for treatment and was advised to see a general practitioner. But because he was not registered with any local doctor he failed to receive further medical help.

Mr Justice Turner told Taylor: "I fully accept that you have in the past not only sought but obtained treatment for the condition that afflicts you and causes you to attack women. It is a sad fact about this case that you have genuinely sought to make use of that treatment but it has been to no effective avail."

The judge recommended Taylor serve a minimum of 20 years.

## 2 cleared of plot to murder

A property developer, Alan Harper-Taylor, jailed for 14 years at the Central Criminal Court for the attempted murder of his estranged wife, was cleared at the Court of Appeal yesterday.

His friend, Leslie Bakker, given the same sentence for involvement in the shooting of Mrs Julie Harper-Taylor, was also cleared. The appeal judges said the attempted murder convictions must be quashed as unsafe.

Mr Harper-Taylor, of Brecknock Road, Holloway, north London, had denied planning the shooting of his wife and Mr Bakker, of Crossfield Road, Clacton, Essex, denied shooting her.

Yesterday Lord Justice Mustill, sitting with Mr Justice Kenneth Jones and Mr Justice Potts, said that at the men's first trial in 1986, Mr Bakker's counsel revealed, in a private meeting with judge and counsel, that his client made admissions to him in a cell interview. After hearing that Mr Bakker reportedly wanted to change his story, the judge ordered a retrial.

Mr Bakker later refused to make a fresh statement, the appeal judge said, and still insisted he had not been the gunman. But his alleged admissions were summed up briefly by the retrial judge.

The evidence of the so-called cell admissions should have been excluded, the appeal judge said. It might have had a decisive impact on the jury's deliberations about Mr Bakker's presence on the scene and on the husband's case that a stranger carried out the attack. The judge said he had no power to order a retrial.

## Russell's first opera cancelled

By Andrew Billen

The film director Ken Russell's British debut as an opera producer has been cancelled by the English National Opera because of a cash crisis.

The opera company, based at the London Coliseum, says that the ageing of Mr Russell's production of Wagner's *Tannhäuser*, due to have opened on May 28, is the result of its low grant increase from the Arts Council.

By cancelling it in favour of a revival of Beethoven's *Fidelio*, the ENO makes a cash saving of £250,000.

Mr Peter Jonas, managing director of the ENO, said: "Ken Russell and the design team produced a concept for *Tannhäuser* which was exciting, distinguished and challenging and the company looked forward to it immensely."

"However, we cannot realize it and do justice to its quality within a budget for the forthcoming year that has been torpedoed by the Arts Council's grant announcement."

The Arts Council last week awarded the ENO a 2.5 per cent grant increase — described by Mr Jonas as "bewildering".

## Treasury to pay for city colleges

By Sarah Thompson, Education Reporter

The Treasury has agreed to pay for up to 80 per cent of the cost of setting up city technology colleges — the industry-sponsored secondary schools with a science bias launched by Mr Kenneth Baker, the Education Secretary, in October 1986.

Mr Cyril Taylor, director of the CTC Trust, said yesterday that the new funding formula replaced plans for the Treasury to make a long-term loan.

Industry has pledged £16 million to found 10 schools, though purchase of only three sites has been completed. It appears that only 17 city technology colleges are likely to be open by 1992 although Mr Baker wanted 20 in operation by the end of 1990.

The Treasury agreement is intended to encourage more sponsors to come forward but the most tricky problem has, in fact, been finding sites for the schools. Many Labour councils are deliberately refusing to release sites for what they see as a socially divisive initiative.

The first, Kingshurst School, promises to be a success. It has been heavily oversubscribed and opens in

Solihull this year, sponsored by Hanson Trust.

The second is in Nottingham, where Mr Baker is attending a launch dinner on Wednesday to mark the start of a building programme.

After months of frustration Dixons, the electrical goods retail chain, believes it has found a site in the Doncaster area.

Negotiations are in progress with Bexley council to close a school and reopen it as a city technology college with sponsorship from the Mercers' Company and the Thamesmead Trust.

The Department of Education and Science has stepped in with a loan to help to purchase another site in the North East until a pledged sponsor, finalizes its contribution.

● Harris Queensway is sponsoring a school in south London and a promising site has been found.

A school in London's docklands is expected but negotiations with the development corporation have been held up by its unwillingness to support a college in isolation from inner London's education in general.

## Virgin set to win top B-Cal route

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Virgin Atlantic Airways is poised to take over British Caledonian's route to Los Angeles.

Mr Richard Branson's company applied for licences to serve 16 of the routes flown by B-Cal after it was bought by British Airways.

The Civil Aviation Authority received objections from other airlines to all of the applications — except for the Los Angeles service.

The time limit for objections has expired and an announcement is expected early next week that Virgin can compete directly with British Airways on the potentially lucrative route.

Already Mr Branson is negotiating to buy at least one more second-hand Boeing 747 to add to the two which fly daily between Gatwick and Newark and Miami.

He intends to undercut British Airways' fares, at least initially. The current one way first class fare is £1,520 and the cheapest Apex fare £469 return.

Hearings on his other applications — to serve New York (JFK), Tokyo, Dubai, Muscat, Moscow, Hong Kong, Oslo, Stockholm, Copenhagen, Hamburg, Stuttgart,

particularly its tough attitude towards staff, in an attempt to lose its reputation for poor service and equipment, over staffing, secrecy, lateness and general inefficiency.

From the beginning of this month, anyone delayed between two and four hours on Aeroflot flights is being refunded 20 per cent of the cost of their ticket, with 15 per cent refunds for those delayed between four and six hours and 25 per cent for those held up longer.

Any of the 500,000 staff found to have caused delays through incompetence will have to bear the cost of the refunds.

The airline, which has a fleet of 15,000 aircraft and carries 116 million passengers a year, has been ordered to become self-financing, as part of Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's shake-up of the Soviet economy.

Brussels, Glasgow and Edinburgh — will be held this summer.

Mr Branson has high hopes that at least some of them will be granted to enable a big expansion of the airline. It made a profit of almost £5 million last year and is filling 97 per cent of seats on its Gatwick — Newark service.

Meanwhile, tourists flying from Gatwick this summer could be confused by two rival airlines with similar names, similar uniforms and similar liveries.

Caledonian Airways is the new name for British Airtrous

and is wholly owned by British Airways. Its aircraft are being repainted with the Caledonian lion on the tail and its cabin crew will wear tartan.

Nearby are the check-in desks for Cal Air, the charter airline owned jointly by British Caledonian and the Rank Organisation. It too carries the lion on the tail, in red rather than gold on a blue background and its staff also wear tartan.

Caledonian is attempting to avoid confusion by moving its operations to the North Terminal which opens at the

end of next month, leaving Cal Air in the original Southern building.

Caledonian Airways yesterday announced that it is to buy two Boeing 757s powered by new high-powered Rolls-Royce E4 engines which will join the fleet in the spring of next year, while Cal Air will take delivery of two of its new Boeing 737-400s powered by General Electric CFM 65 engines.

Caledonian Airways said it planned to carry about 2.2 million passengers this year while its rival Cal Air carries about 1.5 million.

## Fear for treasures after idol decision

By Andrew Billen

A High Court decision to return a twelfth century bronze idol, worth more than a quarter of a million pounds, to India may have put under threat other art treasures in the possession of British collectors and museums.

Ruling that the Nataraja, a bronze statue of the Hindu God Siva, belongs to a ruined temple in Tamil Nadu, Mr Justice Ian Kennedy told the court that similar ownership claims could now be made.

"Many will fail but some will succeed, particularly if the criminal character of their taking could be proved", he said.

The judgement ends a legal battle that began in August 1982, when Scotland Yard seized the Nataraja as it was being examined in the British Museum.

The Nataraja had laid buried in the grounds of the temple for centuries when it was dug up in 1976 by an Indian labourer while he was building a cowshed. He sold it for 200 rupees (£12).

By the summer of 1982 it had come into the ownership of a London antiques dealer who sold it for £250,000 to the Bumper Development Corporation, a Canadian company controlled by Mr Robert Bordon, an oil magnate, art collector and philanthropist.

It had been handed to a conservator at the British Museum for advice on its transportation to Canada when police intervened.

The judge ruled that while Mr Bordon's behaviour could not be faulted, the labourer from India, Mr S Ramamoorthi, was guilty of criminal misappropriation under local law.

The case was complicated by some recalcitrant issues, including whether a consecrated deity, such as the Nataraja, can be regarded as property. The Indians who wanted its return claimed its divine properties did not prevent its remaining a lump of stone.

The judge also had to decide which of the co-plaintiffs was the rightful owner. Rejecting the claims of the Union of India, the local state, a public official of the Temple and Siva Lingam, a cylindrical piece of stone representing a Hindu god, he decided the ruined temple itself was a legal entity capable of suing.

He said: "I am satisfied that the pious intention of the twelfth century notable who gave the land and built the Patur temple, remains in being and is personified by the temple itself, a juristic entity."

Yesterday, a spokesman for the Indian High Commission welcomed the ruling.

He said: "The judgement is very welcome encouragement for us. As a result we may be able to open the way for others of our things to come back to us."

Both the Victoria and Albert Museum, which has a collection of 33,000 Indian paintings, sculptures and textiles, and the British Museum, which owns hundreds of religious objects from India and Asia, have followed the case keenly.

Both museums said yesterday that they did not believe that any of their exhibits were in immediate danger, but that they would need to examine the judgement in detail.

## Coward paintings destined to lead private lives

By Sarah Jane Checkland, Art Market Correspondent

The top three paintings at Christie's Noel Coward sale on Wednesday night have been spirited away to unknown destinations, rather like Van Gogh's record-breaking *Rises*. All three were Jamaican scenes fetching £35,000, £50,000 and £46,200 respectively, and were bought by anonymous telephone bidders.

But some of the less costly pictures may make their reappearance soon, in the galleries of dealers Manchester International Fine Art, which spent £30,800 on a dockland scene, *People on the Quay, Jamaica*, or David Messum, who bought a street scene in Capri, and, surprisingly, the London silver dealer ADC Heritage which bought *A Village in the Hills, Jamaica*.

A diamond solitaire ring, claw-set with a cushion-shaped stone weighing 27.04 carats, fetched SF134,200 (£51,417; estimate SF100,000

to SF120,000). Buyers were a blend of dealers and private, and the sale total was SF3 million (£1.1 million). But over a quarter of the goods were unsold.

Phillips were delighted with the results of their Silver and Jade sale yesterday, at which 90 per cent sold. The sum item, fetching more than three times its upper estimate at £30,000 despite drill holes for electrical wires was a rare eighteenth century Dutch Sabbath lamp. In a seven-sided star form, with mask decorations, it was by the Amster-

dam silversmith Hendrik Griste, and dated 1768. It was bought by the London dealer Jacques Koopman.

A pair of Queen Anne tapering baluster candlesticks sold for double their upper estimate, and £2,000 more than a similar pair which sold at Sotheby's two weeks ago, for £7,000 — to a private collector.

Ephemera in the form of stylish twentieth century travel posters sold well at Onslow Auctioneers in London on Thursday. The small firm pioneered this field two years ago and this week's sale showed how it has succeeded in doubling prices over that time.

A group of 57 posters from the studio of Charles Pears — an official artist to the Ad-

miralty during the First World War — fetched a total of £12,000. One, advertising Bombay, published by the Empire Marketing Board, fetched £2,000 against an estimate of £400.

Over at Sotheby's New York, the French artist Maurice Utrillo was the most popular artist at their Impressionist and Modern Sale, when his paintings fetched the top two prices. The first — a picture of *Sacre-Coeur de Montmartre* from the Rue Norvins — fetched \$143,000 (£80,974; within estimate) to an American private buyer, while, less instantly-recognizable as a landmark, another of Rue de L'Abreuvoir a Montin, sold for \$137,400 (£77,802) against an estimate of \$70,000 to \$90,000, to a Japanese dealer.

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# Land Rover drives a perilous road as foreign predators close in

By Daniel Ward, Motor Industry Correspondent

The Government's decision to rebuff General Motors' bid for Land Rover two years ago was a turning point in the future of the South Wales company, a leading motor industry expert said yesterday.

Mr Garel Rhys, Professor of Motor Industry at Cardiff University, said the decision could now be judged as a watershed for the company and "one we could live to regret".

The Government backed down from its plan to offer Land Rover to the world's biggest vehicle-maker as a sweetener for merging Leyland Trucks, a loss-maker, with Bedford.

Among the main producers of four wheel drive vehicles, Land Rover is alone in lacking a financially strong parent company. It is also a small manufacturer. While 20,500 Range Rovers and 17,700 Land Rovers were built in 1987, Mitsubishi of Japan produced more than 90,000 four wheel drive Shoguns.

Professor Rhys said: "Ford and Nissan have come together to jointly develop a new four wheel drive vehicle and GM is now looking at selling

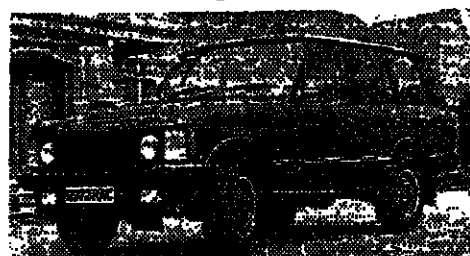
the Isuzu Trooper in Europe. To GM, Land Rover would have been central to its off-road vehicle range and would have been the flagship. New Land Rover will be attacked on all sides."

New products are badly needed as the four wheel drive market expands rapidly and becomes more diverse, bringing to an end the era when the Land Rover was the only vehicle available in that sector.

In spite of the gloss behind the latest £27,000 Range Rover, the vehicle is now 17 years old and the latest Land Rovers are heavily based on the original design of the 1940s.

"The Land Rover engine and gearbox are ancient and not up to what rival manufacturers can offer", Professor Rhys commented. "Although the Range Rover has got the top of the market to itself, the company has got to be careful and steadily update it."

The company is understood to be developing a more luxurious successor to the Range Rover, due to be launched in four years, and a more comfortable and modern vehicle priced above the Land



Range Rover: £18,185-£27,349  
UK sales 1987: 5,027  
Engines: 3.5 petrol, 2.4 turbo diesel



Toyota Land Cruiser: £18,000  
UK sales 1987: 1,779  
Engines: 3.9 diesel



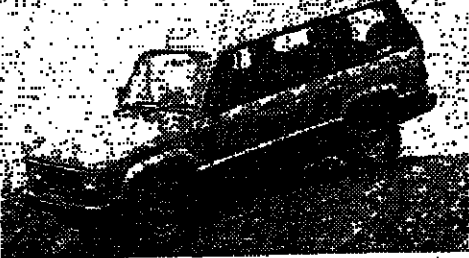
Mitsubishi Shogun: £11,929-£16,709  
UK sales 1987: 3,287  
Engines: 2.6 petrol, 2.5 litre turbo diesel



Mercedes G-Wagen: £18,500-£21,500  
UK sales 1987: 410  
Engines: 2.3/2.8 petrol, 3.0 diesel



Land Rover: £8,840-£14,430  
UK sales 1987: 8,243  
Engines: 2.5, 3.5 petrol; 2.5 diesel/turbo diesel



Isuzu Trooper: £9,999-£15,999  
UK sales 1987: 1,668  
Engines: 2.3, 2.6 petrol; 2.8 turbo diesel



Suzuki SJ: £8,195-£9,850  
UK sales 1987: 5,582  
Engines: 870 cc, 1.3 petrol



Lada Niva: £6,185-£7,345  
UK sales 1987: 919  
Engines: 1.6 petrol

Rover to compete with Japanese rivals.

Production of a new Land Rover will cost about £80 million even if the existing engine and gearbox continue to be produced. A new engine and gearbox would push the cost up to £200 million.

It is doubtful that the company can afford that level of investment. Attempts to develop a diesel engine for the Range Rover a few years ago failed and Land Rover was forced to buy an Italian V6 diesel for its top range model.

It would be logical for Land

Rover to buy a rival's engine for future models but more than a year of searching has failed to find a possible suit.

The Land Rover engine is an old design but it provides the durability which is so much part of the vehicle's image. Would it be too great a risk to

install a Toyota or Nissan engine?

Last year sales topped £500 million but pre-tax profits are unlikely to be above £15 million. Professor Rhys said: "Land Rover profits are derisory and only slightly better than break-even. If

there is a fluctuation in the market these profits will disappear like snow in the sunshine."

For viability profits would have to reach £75 million to £100 million.

Mr Graham Day, Rover Group chairman, is still work-

ing on privatization proposals which will go before Lord Young of Grafton, Secretary of State for Industry, who has made it plain he expects Rover to be sold off during this Parliament.

A damaging strike will make Mr Day's task even harder.

## Youth is charged with girl's murder

A youth has been charged with the murder of Margaret Lowther, aged five.

John Johnstone, aged 17, of Melishaw Caravan Park, Morcambe, Lancashire, was remanded in custody for seven days when he appeared at a special sitting of Lancaster Magistrates Court yesterday.

## Father jailed

Robert Bashford, aged 28, was jailed for two years yesterday after admitting the manslaughter of his son, Christopher, aged four months. Teesside Crown Court was told Bashford, of Grangehouse, Cleveland, caused brain damage when he shook the child.

## Silver service

Rolls-Royce workers at Derby received a toy Silver Shadow through the post marked "fragile, please repair". They sent two new four-inch replicas, worth \$95, to its owner, Matthew O'Malley, aged 11, of Ipswich.

## Death award

The widow and son of James Bartle, an engineer who fell 45ft from a rope ladder in Portsmouth in 1983, were awarded £76,057 damages and costs against his former employers, Kobi Cradles, of Kingston upon Thames, west London, in the High Court.

## Homes deal

British Coal has sold 1,600 houses it owned in Nottinghamshire to a consortium of local housing associations for £8.5 million. The sale was welcomed by tenants who felt an earlier Lancaster Housing Association bid would be against their interests.

## Welsh factory

Matsushita, the Japanese electronics company, is going to open its third plant in South Wales, it was announced yesterday, creating 120 jobs at a £7 million factory in Port Talbot, West Glamorgan.

## TV-am seeks strong showing in current affairs Gyngell to widen journalists' role

By Richard Evans  
Media Editor

Mr Bruce Gyngell, managing director of TV-am, yesterday outlined the shake-up he envisages for his commercial breakfast television station to make it the "third force" in television news and current affairs.

His plan for the future, which comes after the decision by journalists at the Camden Lock studios not to strike in support of the 232 dismissed television technicians, involves making TV-am a training ground for television.

TV-am would be "starting again" and opening the door to many people previously restricted from joining the business.

Radical proposals included the training of TV-am's own technical staff, the contracting out of key duties such as maintenance, the employment of more women in

studio work, and a big expansion in the role and influence of journalists.

However, while there may be an increase in the size of the editorial staff of 90, the total work force is likely to fall from its level of 490 before the strike to about 300.

Other TV company chiefs have questioned Mr Gyngell's ability to fill the vacancies left by the dismissal of members of the Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians (ACTT), but he said yesterday that he would not be involved in strict replacement.

He would bring in six to eight highly qualified engineering managers who would then train recruits new to the business.

Mr Gyngell said: "TV-am may become the training ground of the television future. There are a whole lot of devoted and committed people out there who have been



Bruce Gyngell plans big shake-up after dismissals.

restricted until now from getting into television.

"Television equipment is so simple to use nowadays if you are committed and enthusiastic. It's just a matter of experience."

"We are redefining our entire requirements and facilities at TV-am. We are starting again. We are taking this

opportunity to get right what we got wrong the first time."

"We are now on course to make a reality of becoming the third force in television news. We now have flexibility, dynamism, energy, enthusiasm, commitment and a vision to achieve that."

He said that, over the next few days, he would meet fellow executives and discuss "every facet of the operation carefully and minutely and come up with a considered decision based on the experience of the last two years."

"We will work co-operatively with our journalists on how we can make this a fantastic news and current affairs station. It is not going to be a matter of management and union, but a matter of people getting together to devise something that is going to work marvellously for us all."

TV-am was now keen to employ more women, often, Mr Gyngell believes, when

handle studio work better than men. "I am very interested in ensuring that women get a really equal and proper place in this organisation", he said.

The restructuring could even result in a redesigning of the TV-am studios to allow for an open plan technical area, but Mr Gyngell insisted, the station was going to be led by journalists. "Journalists will no longer be second class citizens genuflecting to the demands of the technicians. We will get it right this time. It will be a creatively-led station and not a technically-dominated station."

However, the new era of flexibility and the breaking down of old demarcation lines will affect editorial staff. "I expect a lot of the journalists will be doing jobs which have been done in the past by ACTT individuals. I expect journalists to become producers and directors."

## Labour ambushes Gummer

## Questions sown over synod

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Mr John Gummer, the agriculture minister who during last week's General Synod attacked the church for encouraging the "candom culture", has been ambushed by Labour MPs furious at what they saw as a deliberate attempt by a Tory politician to intimidate the church.

Led by Mr Dale Campbell-Savours, a master of parliamentary procedure, they have contrived in an unorthodox way to bring Mr Gummer to the Commons to answer for his conduct.

Once a month the agriculture ministers answer questions in the Commons on their subject. Two weeks before that, MPs submit the questions they want to ask and the top six or seven questions

drawn from a hat can be put orally to the minister.

About thirty Labour MPs were put up by Mr Campbell-Savours to table questions tortuously linking agriculture with the church.

Thus Mr Bernie Grant, representing the well-known rural constituency of Tottenham, wants to know if Mr Gummer will meet church representatives to discuss social and economic prospects for their agricultural tenants. Mr Eric Heffer, from inner-city Liverpool, wants to know the proportion of Britain's agricultural produce grown on church-owned land.

Yesterday's Commons order book revealed that one of the 30 Mr Alan Williams, MP for Carmarthen, has drawn first place for his question on

March 3 asking Mr Gummer what representations he has received from the church on the Government's agricultural policy. That asked, Labour MPs can legitimately ask follow-up questions on the relationship between the church and the Government, bringing the whole issue into the open.

Mr Campbell-Savours said yesterday that Mr Gummer's speech had caused immense offence to hundreds of church-goers, including himself.

It is possible that Mr Gummer's ministerial colleagues could field all church-related questions on March 3, but Mr Campbell-Savours said: "If he's got any bottle and courage he will come to the despatch box and defend himself."

## International link-up sought to fight crime

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Proposals for an important link between Britain and other countries to provide mutual aid in fighting crime are to be explored in a government discussion paper published next week.

Mr John Patten, Minister of State at the Home Office, said last night that under the scheme help would be provided by one country to another in the investigation and prosecution of criminal offences.

"This sort of assistance is usually provided in the form of written evidence, including sworn evidence in court."

"It includes the search for and seizure of material required in evidence, the service of warrants, the making of arrangements for appearance in court of foreign witnesses."

Mr Patten said that the United Kingdom was not party to any criminal mutual assistance treaty.

Police and prosecuting authorities in this country did their best, but there were immense gaps in the help which they could give to foreign jurisdictions.

He added: "Just as it is important we ensure that people accused of serious crimes should be extradited to face trial so we should also ensure that the best evidence is available for court proceedings."

The European Convention on Mutual Assistance had been operating effectively since the late 1950s. For Britain to join would be the logical next step after acceding to the European Convention on Extradition.

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PARLIAMENT

## DTI's strategy on EEC market

The Government is to launch a massive campaign to prepare industry and commerce for the fierce competition that will ensue in the single European market after 1992, Lord Young of Grafton, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, told peers.

He was opening a debate in the House of Lords on his Department's White Paper, *DTI - the department for Enterprise*.

He said that there was a belief that the Government could solve the problems of the economy and of industry, but intervention in commercial decisions had been the failed policy of the past.

His Department had a role, to act as a catalyst and influence on industry and commerce. The starting point for that strategy was in helping business succeed against world competition. That success could only be won by giving customers the best of goods and services. The Government could only influence the attitudes and behaviour of people in business.

The single European market was inevitable by 1992 and if business was neither involved in the change nor had adapted its strategy to it, then it would be too late.

"So we are launching a major campaign to ensure that each and every British businessman not only knows what 1992 is about, but will be actively considering what action he or she should be taking."

Lord Williams of Elvel, from the Opposition front bench, asked whether the White Paper was relevant to the real problems ahead?

It suggested that the economy had been transformed to the point where it could cope with



Lord Young: Department's role as catalyst.

the problem by itself. But export prices and labour unit costs showed that the position was slightly worse than it had been in 1978.

The 1980s was the decade of New Deal, the 1990s would be the decade when the oil runs down. We must be prepared for that and we must start now. Not to do so would lay us open to the charge of indulging in complacent self-congratulation. That is a charge on the evidence of what Lord Young has said today, that the Government would have difficulty in avoiding it.

Viscount Chandos (SDP) said that the White Paper gave the impression that enterprise was concentrated largely in senior management.

No mention was made of initiatives to increase the participation, involvement and democracy of the workforce. They needed better education and training in the same way as senior management, but also inspiration and motivation.

Lord Joseph (C), in a maiden speech, said that most of the



Lord Joseph: Country needs more millionaires.

governments in Europe seemed to have known better than past governments in the United Kingdom, how to enable free enterprise to create prosperity for virtually all.

He hoped that history would show that during the 1980s British progress had accelerated towards a society in which most people owned enough and earned enough and had the scope and time to make use of them.

The reason this country was less prosperous than its neighbours was that its productivity was lower. There was a time when that had been blamed on the trade unions, but now the fault seemed to lie with management.

If Britain was to be prosperous there was a need for more millionaires and for more bankrupts.

The Government had now set the motivating framework in place and it was that framework that would do most to improve performance.

Lord Stevens of Ludgate (C),

in a maiden speech, said that responsibility for revitalising this country lay not only with government, but management too. Many people would welcome the opportunity to exercise enterprise and responsibility in their work, and the White Paper would encourage that.

Lord Thorneycroft (C) expressed concern at the skills shortage and the lack of management training.

It was not acceptable that only one-fifth of British managers had degree or special training compared with 63 per cent in Japan and 85 per cent in the United States.

Britain was also short of artisans, skills and, above all, the spirit of enterprise.

Lord Nelson of Stafford (C), a member of the House of Lords science and technology select committee, said that the committee was appalled by the Government's decision not to participate in any of the European Space Agency optional programmes. Space was not just a research programme but a whole spectrum of new endeavour.

How could the Government reconcile its refusal with the White Paper's pledge to encourage more collaborative research?

Lord Peston, for the Opposition, said that he was worried that Britain would be going into the opening of the European market in rather a naive way. "We will open up things at this end while they, covertly and surreptitiously, will be closing their markets to us."

The Government in general, and the DTI in particular, had not appreciated the importance of research and development.

## Minister defends rural development

MPs from both sides of the House expressed concern about recent developments in the countryside, particularly the decline in council housing and cheap accommodation to rent.

Mr William Waldegrave, Minister for Housing and Planning, said, however, that it was wrong to start from the assumption that the countryside was in a state of collapse and decline.

Responding to demands for greater controls on development in rural areas, he said that developers did not invent demand. "The more we clamp down on the developers where the market takes them, the more prices will go up for the houses which are already there."

Perhaps they should be looking a little more carefully in the areas "at the idea of new settlements". There came a point where existing village expansion must end and if those villages were not to be turned into towns.

Mr Frank Dobson, for the Opposition, said that the lack of cheap housing particularly applied to young people who were not well off, who had grown up in rural areas and wanted to stay.

Mr Waldegrave said that the situation in Lambeth was worrying. The patience of the Department was not inexhaustible.

Opening the debate, Mr William Shelton (Stratford, W.) complained of delays in the processing of council house sales caused by Lambeth's leaving views. It was deeply wrong that Parliament's intentions on granting home ownership were being frustrated in this way.

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The Government was considering bringing forward ideas as a package on rural housing.

Opening the debate on rural development, Mr Malcolm Moss (North East Cambridgeshire, C) said that the main problems in the countryside were depopulation, inadequate housing, high unemployment and the decline of rural services.

They would not be solved by planners alone. "Planners tend to react to circumstances. They are not strategists."

There were difficulties facing those who could not make the first step on to the home ownership ladder. There was a shortage of housing for young married people and the elderly.

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## WORLD ROUNDUP

## Blast in Namibia bank kills 14

Johannesburg — A huge bomb explosion in a bank at Oshakati, in Namibia, has killed at least 14 people and injured 31 others, according to police. It was the worst explosion recorded in the South African-occupied territory (Michael Hornsby writes). Oshakati, about 20 miles south of the Angolan border in the densely populated Ovamboland district of Namibia, is the most important South African military base in the area.

Commandant Lieb Bester, of the South West Africa Territory Force said that one white woman, nine black women, three black men and a black child were confirmed dead. There were seven white women, 10 black women, 10 black men and four white men among the injured. The police lost no time in blaming Swapo guerrillas who operate from bases in southern Angola.

Radio Ovambo, a local radio station, claimed that as many as 30 people had been killed in the blast.

## US hunts 'Mr X'

Washington — Almost a year after the jailing of Jonathan Pollard for passing secrets to Israel, the Justice Department is said to be convinced that Israel had a second spy operating in the CIA or the Defense Department (Christopher Thomas writes).

The department is trying to establish the identity of the spy, dubbed "Mr X", according to *The Washington Post*. The belief that a Mr X must exist grew out of Pollard's debriefing. He said that his Israeli handlers often specified by date and document control number which secret papers they wanted. The investigators concluded that Mr X provided that information.

## Peace on frontier

Bangkok (Reuters) — The Thai-Lao border ceasefire went into effect yesterday, ending the worst frontier fighting between the states for more than 40 years.

Thai Army officers said that the 30 square miles of disputed border area was quiet when the truce went into effect, and troops were preparing to pull back two miles after sporadic battles over the past six months in which hundreds of soldiers were killed. Six Thai and Laotian military officers flew in a Thai helicopter over the zone, in remote hills, about 250 miles north of Bangkok, to report any violation of the ceasefire pact, signed on Wednesday.

## Biaggi vows to fight

Washington — The House of Representatives ethics committee has recommended the expulsion from the House of the New York Democrat, Mr Mario Biaggi, convicted last year of accepting illegal gratuities (Mohsin Ali writes).

But Mr Biaggi vowed to fight expulsion from the House floor and accused the committee of a "rush to judgement" in acting before his appeal in the criminal case had been heard. If the expulsion goes ahead, Mr Biaggi, aged 70, a highly-decorated former member of the New York City police force, would be only the fifth House member to be ousted.

## Gadafi's Refugees flee war

Belgrade (Reuters) — Libya has offered sanctuary to the eldest son of the late President Nasser of Egypt, who is wanted in Cairo on terrorism charges, Arab sources said yesterday.

Mr Khaled Abdel Nasser, aged 38, who went into exile in Yugoslavia three months ago as Egyptian security police closed in on the organization he was alleged to have founded and armed to attack US and Israeli diplomats, was reported to be pondering his next move. But the sources said that friends advised the engineer against going to Libya.

About 100,000 peasant farmers arrived in the Nasser area of Malawi in recent weeks, said Ms Jenny Borden, the Africa officer for Christian Aid.

They have joined the 400,000 Mozambican refugees who have been living in camps in Malawi for almost two years.

## Terrorist sympathy

Paris — On the 81st day of her hunger strike yesterday Nathalie Ménigon, the Action Directe terrorist, was allowed to leave the Paris court where she is on trial for attempted murder. After signing her lawyer, Mlle Ménigon, whose condition continues visibly to deteriorate, was taken away in a wheelchair by prison nurses (Philip Jacobson writes).

The French magistrates' organization yesterday attacked the Government's refusal to remove Action Directe prisoners from isolation cells, claiming that the only reason for this was "pure and simple manipulation" of voters at a crucial stage of the presidential election campaign.

## Five little words damaged the man who was supposed to keep on smiling

## Agile Dole trips over the character factor

From Michael Bixton  
Washington

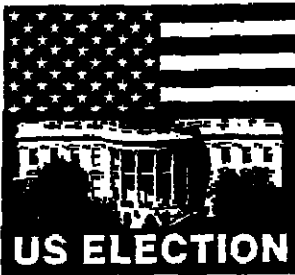
It took only five words by Senator Robert Dole to undo all the efforts of his supporters and image-makers and throw his presidential campaign into turmoil. "Stop lying about my record," he rasped at Vice-President George Bush in a tense television confrontation. There it was again for all to see — the slashing, partisan, hatchet-man image, the mean streak that Mr Dole has tried so hard to conceal.

His campaign manager had urged him to "keep smiling" after his surprising defeat in New Hampshire. He took no notice. "After a while, people are going to ask who is that jerk who is always going around smiling," he snapped.

Mr Dole's razor wit is legendary. It has cut through every presidential debate, enlivened every televised exchange with one-liner sound bites. "Should we do anything to help the Russians get out of Afghanistan?" he was asked in one debate. "What do you have in mind — a road map?" he replied.

Such repartee goes down well. Voters and reporters are impressed by his agility and political acumen. But Mr Dole is a mercurial figure. And all too often, especially when things are going against him, his wit gives way to a darker, cutting malice. "Get back in your cage," he snarled at one voter. And talk has begun again of the sharp-tongued Mr Dole whose temper gets the better of him.

His aides have done their best to overcome memories of his accusation in a debate with Mr Walter Mondale that all the Americans killed in armed conflict in this century were victims of "Democrat wars".



They insist that his inner bitterness, the result of his crippling war wound, has gone, that his second marriage has mellowed him.

No one claims a personality

change. But he has tried to turn toughness into an asset. "Who do you want sitting across from Gorbachov?" he asked in New Hampshire. "Some people say Bob Dole is pretty tough. Well, you better hope I'm tough. It's the future we're talking about."

But this "presidential" blend of inner strength and outer calm has now been shattered. Stories are going round of his mistrustful aloofness, his acerbic treatment of his staff, who nickname him the "Ayadollah". And people are asking, what if he snaps at

Mr Gorbachov in the same way? Would that be presidential?

The contrast with Mr Bush could not be more striking. The Vice-President appears unable to display inner toughness even when he tries. He is inarticulate to the point of defencelessness. He is unable to remove the gloves of gentlemanly breeding and decorum. In verbal sparring, he is floored with the first blow. The press love beating up "preppy George" because he is such a slow-moving target, the man born with a silver foot in his mouth.

But voters, it seems, have a different assessment. Mr Dole's brooding moodiness does not sit well with their perceptions of presidential character. Mr Bush's failings may make him dull and insipid, but he seems to display a tolerance, loyalty and spirit of fair play that count for a lot in many people's eyes.

The problem with this election is that issues have so far played only a small part. "Character" is really the only issue. For character comes across on television, while issues take too much time. No

one has more disastrously misunderstood this than Mr Gary Hart. He ran advertisements in New Hampshire insisting he was the only candidate with "the power of ideas", with leadership and the toughness of character needed in adversity. But voters could only snicker. Character to them meant the Donna Rice affair.

Other candidates have found their good qualities somehow reduced by being packaged as "character". Senator Paul Simon, an honest, straightforward and pious man, has become something of a caricature: the old-fashioned fuddyduddy, the small-town, squeaky clean idealist who comes across nevertheless as a lovable but somewhat inept bumbler.

It seemed so appropriate that the very moment he stepped on the platform as the New Hampshire results came in, the entire structure collapsed (though he recovered with a quick line: "My political platform is more solid").

And Senator Albert Gore suffers from the opposite image: the too perfect goody-goody, where smoothness and bland good looks seem to mask all human qualities.

Character, of course, is impossible to quantify or measure. But that is what today's commentators and cameramen are attempting to do. And even then the results can have little to do with voting patterns.

The entire press corps — and many voters — agreed that Mr Bruce Babbitt was a man of honesty, integrity and sterling character. He received fewer votes than anyone except Mr Hart and has been forced to withdraw.



Wearing the winning smiles urged by his advisers, Senator Dole and his wife attend a rally in Charlotte, North Carolina.

## Lebanese kidnapping

## Price on colonel's life

From Juan Carlos Gurmacin, west Beirut

A Muslim extremist group, which has long been waging a violent campaign to obtain the release of hundreds of Arab prisoners in Israeli jails, yesterday claimed it was holding Lieutenant-Colonel William Higgins, the American Marine officer abducted in southern Lebanon four days ago while on duty for the United Nations.

The "Organization of the Oppressed on Earth" made the claim in a statement distributed in Beirut along with photocopies of two identification documents it claims belong to the 43-year-old officer.

In the typewritten statement, Colonel Higgins was accused of being an agent of the Central Intelligence Agency "who uses his work with the United Nations as a cover for his dangerous espionage role".

The American authorities and UN officials have denied any link between Colonel Higgins and the CIA. Mr Marrack Goulding, the UN Under Secretary-General who visited the headquarters of the

to be members of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah (Party of God), the Lebanese faction that has become a prime suspect in the abduction.

Mr Daoud Daoud, an Amal commander in the south, told reporters his militia had "clear clues" about the identity of the kidnappers. "We are still optimistic," he said, but offered no details.

NEW YORK: The US faces certain severe embarrassment at the hands of the UN if the world body goes ahead with plans to call an emergency session of the General Assembly to examine American moves to close the New York mission of the Palestine Liberation Organization (Charles Bremner writes).

The assembly would be virtually certain to condemn the US and seek a ruling from the International Court of Justice. The US has been on a collision course with the UN since Congress passed an "anti-terrorist" law last year that ordered the closure of Palestinian missions in New York and Washington.

One report from Tyre said that the Muslim Amal militia had captured six men believed

## Shultz to urge arms control speed-up in Moscow talks

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, left for Moscow yesterday in the hope of giving new momentum to slow-moving arms control negotiations and getting precise details of the Soviet Union's plans for withdrawal from Afghanistan.

The trip is the first in a series of monthly meetings with Mr Edward Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, to prepare for a fourth summit between Mr Gorbachov and President Reagan in May or June in Moscow.

The talks, which begin on Sunday and include a meeting with Mr Gorbachov on Monday, are not expected to produce a firm summit date. American officials believe that this is unlikely to emerge until the Senate approves the intermediate-range nuclear forces treaty signed last December.

Mr Shultz will sound out Kremlin leaders on his new Middle East peace initiative, which he will discuss with Israeli and Arab leaders on a shuttle mission immediately after his Moscow talks. But arms control and

Afghanistan will be the key elements of the Moscow meeting. A senior Reagan Administration official said that there was a sense that "somehow the atmosphere went a little flat" after last December's summit, and both sides had been "waiting for a start-up event" like the Shultz-Shevardnadze talks.

"To keep this arms control process at a high level of momentum you require top-level engagement," he added, referring to the high priority placed by both superpowers on negotiating a treaty to reduce strategic nuclear missiles by 50 per cent.

The official said that a big obstacle was the Soviet Union's demand to limit sea-launched cruise missiles, including those with conventional as well as nuclear warheads.

Moscow still had not offered a proposal for verifying such limits. The US Navy relied heavily on conventionally armed missiles and "we are not interested in anything in that area". Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany held talks with

President Reagan in the Oval Office yesterday, during which he pressed the President to conclude at least one arms control treaty in addition to the INF pact before his term expires.

Herr Kohl said that there was no rift between his Government and the United States over the possible deployment of new short-range nuclear weapons in Europe.

"I came here particularly to make it clear in the Senate that the INF treaty should be ratified without any amendments and that we should then all consult on all the pending questions and arrive at an overall comprehensive package as to future procedures."

He emphasized in a television interview that West Germany did not want a denuclearized zone in central Europe. He added that Mr Gorbachov had admitted the overwhelming superiority of the Soviet Union in conventional forces in Europe and appeared to have opened an opportunity for East-West negotiations to correct the imbalance.

## Nicaragua peace talks

## Sandinistas suspicious of cardinal's ceasefire plan

From Martha Honey, Guatemala City

The Archbishop of Managua, the mediator at the Nicaraguan peace talks between the Sandinista Government and the Contra rebels, has "thrown a monkey wrench" into the negotiations with a dramatic new proposal for a ceasefire and further democratic reform, according to informed sources.

Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo told the press that he presented his proposal late on Thursday after the Sandinistas and rebels had "reached an impasse" in efforts to define the nature of a ceasefire.

The Contras immediately announced that they accepted "in principle" the five-point proposal. Senior Victor Hugo Tinoco, the Deputy Foreign Minister leading the Government's negotiating team, said the proposal was "interesting and constructive", but asked for a more concrete definition of the specifics of the ceasefire.

The proposal calls on the Contras to move their men and military supplies into certain (unspecified) zones in Nicaragua during a 30-day ceasefire, and requires the Sandinistas to agree to four democratic reforms: a total

amnesty for political prisoners; full freedom of expression; political dialogue with the internal opposition parties; and a reconsideration of the compulsory military service law.

San Tinoco said: "The four requirements for the Nicaraguan Government are very clear and well-defined. The requirements for the Contras are not so clear. We must clarify what the Contras will do in exchange: what is the meaning of a ceasefire, how long will it be, who will verify it?"

If final agreement were reached, it would end the seven-year US-backed Contra campaign and remove the Sandinistas' most unpopular war measures. Neither side wants to be perceived as causing a breakdown in the ceasefire talks. Recently, the Sandinistas have shown considerable flexibility in compromising on previously held positions. The government negotiators say they want the talks to continue as long as necessary to hammer out the specifics of a ceasefire.

However, informed sources say agreement is far from certain. They say that the cardinal devalued the negotiations by moving outside the provisions of the Central American peace plan. Under that accord, the talks between the Sandinistas and the Contras are to centre only on a ceasefire, not democratic reform, which the Government is required to discuss only with the internal opposition.

A variety of sources close to the talks say they have begun to question the cardinal's motives and impartiality.



Cardinal Obando y Bravo: Impartiality questioned.

## Deal on Noriega charges denied

From Christopher Thomas  
Washington

State Department officials have acknowledged a secret meeting in Miami earlier this week between President Del Valle of Panama and Mr Elliott Abrams, the Assistant Secretary of State for Latin America.

But the officials denied a report yesterday that Mr

Abrams told the President that drug charges in the US against General Manuel Noriega, Panama's de facto leader, might be dropped if he stepped down and left the country.

According to senior officials quoted by *The New York Times*, the deal was proposed by President Del Valle, who was told that the State Department and the Defense Department might be receptive to the

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# Soviet-Afghan aid deals raise fears of a 'security zone'

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

The Soviet Union has stepped up the number of direct economic agreements signed with towns, districts and provinces in Afghanistan during the last three months. Western governments see this as an attempt to secure Soviet long-term influence even if the troops leave, as predicted, by early 1989.

Many of the projects will require the long-term presence of Soviet civilian experts and much of the attention has been devoted to northern Afghan provinces which border three Soviet republics.

A senior Western diplomat said yesterday: "There is nothing we can do to prevent these agreements, but there is no doubt they have gathered great pace since a meeting held at the Central Committee (of the Communist Party) in Moscow last December. Some people fear a virtual annexation policy in the north, but that has yet to be proved."

The most prestigious recent Soviet-Afghan deal, the Kremlin's pledge to mount a joint space flight with an Afghan crew next August, was signed on February 11, just three days after Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's announcement that, given a Geneva peace agreement, he was prepared to start the pull-out on May 15.

But despite the spectacular nature of the space pact, diplomats regard it as of far less significance than the less well publicized deals with

different areas of Afghanistan which have recently gathered such momentum.

Soviet officials have informed their US counterparts that these town-to-town and province-to-province agreements are a means devised to bypass the "corruption" and "bureaucracy" of the Afghan central government, and to deliver aid to the grassroots.

But some Western officials here believe that the agreements are part of a larger Soviet plan to lay the groundwork for extensive control of a nominally independent Afghanistan, even stretching to *de facto* annexation of the northern provinces whether or not the troops are finally withdrawn.

Because of the limited access of Western diplomats based in Kabul to information about other areas of the country, details of the controversial new agreements are mostly gleaned by occasional references made to them in the Soviet press, which is at pains to emphasize that they are "fraternal" arrangements between two friendly nations.

Some Western observers believe that the recent pattern of boosting links between the Soviet Union and the northern provinces of Afghanistan is a precursor to the creation of an Israeli-style Soviet security belt, from which troops will never finally be withdrawn. Others maintain that such a move would undo the

widespread international propaganda gains which the Kremlin expects to accrue from leaving Afghanistan.

An article earlier this week in the Soviet economics newspaper *Sovetskikh Ekonomika*, spelled out in detail the extent of the recent deals under four separate but revealing headlines: "Business partnership", "Trains head for Afghanistan", "Direct ties" and "Irrigation works".

"A business partnership between Afghanistan and Ashkhabad (the capital of Soviet Turkmenia) has recently been sealed by an agreement on direct ties between the Turkmen capital and the Afghan province of Herat," it said. "The agreement envisages economic aid to the Afghan province, including the delivery of consumer goods, teaching aids and technical appliances for schools."

The Soviet paper added: "Afghan engineers, teachers and medical personnel will undergo probation at Ashkhabad's enterprises and institutions. An agreement was reached to exchange cultural and working delegations on a permanent basis."

Other recent agreements have included the dispatch from the Soviet Caspian port of Astrakhan of two trains bound for the Afghan province of Farkh carrying various types of industrial equipment, machinery and appliances.

## Israelis braced for more rioting

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Police and army reinforcements are being drafted in from today, particularly round Jerusalem, in an attempt to head off more violent Palestinian protests which have been scheduled to coincide with the visit next week of Mr George Shultz, the American Secretary of State.

Leaflets calling for the demonstrations, signed by the shadowy "National Leadership of the Uprising", are circulating, urging protests against US policy in the Middle East when Mr Shultz arrives to discuss his peace initiative with Israeli leaders. The protests are meant to include a boycott on any meetings between Palestinians and Mr Shultz, although co-Sinara, a well-sourced Arab newspaper published in Nazareth, reported yesterday that Mr Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, has designated six leading Palestinians from the territories to see Mr Shultz.

The protests, while calling for increased rioting during the visit, say the next stage of the "uprising" will be an effort to undermine the Israeli economy by trying to prevent all Palestinians from working in Israel. Some 75,000 are estimated to be doing so at the moment, three-quarters of the number who did so before the start of the current unrest.

Israel's response so far has been an attempt to crack down on illegal Palestinian workers. About half of the 100,000 who used to travel to Israel daily were not registered, which meant employers saved social security costs while the Palestinians paid no tax. Now 788 employers have been ordered to register their workers or face heavy fines, while 1,600 illegal workers face court cases. A special unit has been set up to tour work sites checking to see that everyone is registered.

Israel is also trying to put an economic squeeze on the territories to restore calm and to try and head off a civil disobedience campaign outlined in some leaflets. They tell Palestinians not to pay taxes or to co-operate in any way with the military authorities.



Mr Neil Kinnock being greeted yesterday by Mr Yitzhak Shamir, Israel's Prime Minister, who told him Israel is doing its best to end the rioting in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

From Our Own Correspondent, Jerusalem

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, flies home from Israel tomorrow, leaving scarcely a ripple behind him after meetings with Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, and Mr Shimon Peres, the Foreign Minister.

Israeli newspapers and television displayed little interest in his visit, and officials involved in making arrangements for his trip were frankly glad to see the back of him.

"He had nothing new to say to anyone," one senior official told *The Times*. "To be honest, we're getting a little bored with these British politicians who come here, suddenly become instant experts on the Middle East and then start criticizing us in public. The problem is a very difficult one and they are doing nothing to help solve it by parading around pretending to know it all."

Pictures showing Mr Kinnock looking at X-rays of injured Palestinians caused particular offence to officials.

Another official said he felt "fairly disgusted" at seeing Mr Kinnock visiting Palestinian hospitals. "When did the last British politician bother to go and offer condolences to an Israeli injured or maimed by Arab terrorism?"

"We accept criticism. We agree and disagree with visitors from all over the world when they come to talk to us. But British politicians seem to be turning Israel and the territories into part of their domestic political campaign. They come here with their own time media, make a fuss in front of the cameras about something they have ignored for years, and it goes straight on to the front page of the British papers."

"What they don't seem to

realize is that they are actually harming the peace process, however many votes they hope to win back home by shedding crocodile tears for 10 minutes in a refugee camp. Israelis watch these instant experts and feel sick. Even people here who would dearly like to see us withdraw from all of the territories feel insulted and antagonized by their behaviour."

"Kinnock probably undermined the position of Peres by calling him 'Shimon this' and 'Shimon that' in a patronizing and undignified way, trying to make him out to be the good guy. The one person seen standing firmly and with dignity was Shamir, who Kinnock wanted to make out was the bad guy. Shamir is probably the only one in Israel who gained from the visit and that won't speed up the peace process."

## Sikhs in raids on Punjab courts

Amritsar (Reuters) — Sikh extremists hurled home-made bombs into court complexes in four cities in the north Indian state of Punjab yesterday, killing at least eight people and injuring more than 50, police said.

The authorities blamed the bombings on the Khalistan Commando Force, one of the separatist groups fighting for a Sikh homeland.

One of the largest explosions, which killed two people and injured 23, was at the district court in Gurdaspur, 25 miles north of Amritsar. Another bomb went off at a court in the Sikh holy city itself, where one person died and 19 were injured, and at court buildings in the cities of Hoshiarpur and Patiala.

## Space setback for Russians

Moscow (AP) — In a rare report of a mishap in the Soviet commercial space programme, Tass said that a Proton rocket failed after its launch on Wednesday and destroyed three satellites, suggesting that the carrier may have exploded.

70 feared dead  
Calcutta (Reuters) — More than 70 people were feared dead after a crowded boat capsized in shark-infested waters near the mouth of the Ganges in north-east India.

## Refugee curb

Bangkok (AFP) — Thailand refused to accept 57 Vietnamese boat people rescued at sea, even though the United States had promised to resettle them, a UN spokesman said.

## Party elitism

Sofia (Reuters) — Testing of pupils in communist Bulgaria suggests the country should abandon comprehensive schools and revive selective education, according to the official news agency BTA.

## Once bitten

Dhaka — Hundreds of Bangladeshis took to the streets of the capital to protest against swarms of bloodthirsty mosquitoes preying on residents after dusk.

## Pakistan warns of bloodbath

By Nicholas Beeston

Mr Zain Noorani, the Pakistani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, issued a warning yesterday that hundreds of thousands of Afghans would die in a new and bloody civil war unless an interim government was established in Kabul during the Soviet troop withdrawal this year.

After meeting Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, in London, the minister urged the West to press Moscow for an agreement on a coalition government. Although there is backing in London and Washington for his appeal, Western leaders have urged Islamabad

not to jeopardize Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's pledge to begin pulling out the 115,000 Soviet troops from May 15.

A Foreign Office source said: "There is a tremendous amount of sympathy and concern for Pakistan. After eight years of occupation, the Soviet withdrawal is bound to leave a tremendous vacuum."

Mr Noorani highlighted Pakistan's fears when he cautioned that, without a settlement, the three million Afghan refugees in his country would not return home.

"We anticipate that under such circumstances more refugees will be coming into

Pakistan from Afghanistan," he said. "In our opinion the way things are being worked out by the Soviets, it is going to lead to a bloodbath. Afghan rebel leaders, and refugee and emigre representatives, would propose a 'detailed framework of a coalition government' on Monday."

● ISLAMABAD: President Zia of Pakistan said it would be incorrect to assume that his country's readiness to sign a peace accord in Geneva with the Kabul authorities would amount to their recognition as a legitimate regime by his Government.

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# The Fur Superstore

## Dark horse Vasiliou leading in race for Cyprus presidency

From Mario Modiano, Nicosia

Twenty-four hours before tomorrow's second round in the Cyprus presidential race, Mr George Vasiliou, the dark horse of the island's politics, has a strong lead over his conservative opponent, Mr Glavkos Clerides, but the outcome is still in the balance.

Mr Vasiliou, a self-made millionaire aged 56 who is standing as an independent, won second place last Sunday, taking just over 30 per cent of the vote, thanks to the backing of the Communists. He has now also secured a commitment from the small Socialist Party, which is worth an additional 9 per cent.

In the second round a simple majority is enough to win a five-year term as President, so the game is not quite lost for Mr Clerides, aged 68, who led in the first round with just over 33 per cent of the total vote.

He now pins his hopes on the following of Mr Spyros Kyprianou, aged 55, the outgoing President, who was eliminated last Sunday after lagging in third place with just 27 per cent of the vote. His centre Democratic Party, which ruled for 11 years, averted a split by allowing its supporters a free vote.

The candidates have had all week to woo undecided voters. Campaigning culminated with huge mass meetings in Nicosia last night. Mr Clerides, who has promised an all-party

government to secure broader support, made a surprise move during a television debate on Thursday night when he announced that he was resigning as leader of his Democratic Rally Party so that he could be a truly non-partisan President.

At the same time he has been emphasizing his opponent's lack of political experience and the lingering doubts about the extent of his commitment to the Moscow-line Progressive Party (Ake).

Mr Vasiliou, who denies he has any secret commitments, has been arguing in favour of new faces and ideas, but also criticized Mr Clerides for allegedly harbouring in his party extremists implicated in the 1974 coup that led to the Turkish invasion and the island's *de facto* partition.

No matter who wins tomorrow, the feeling here is that things will soon start moving towards ending the deadlock over the island's political future.

Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the United Nations Secretary-General, is standing by for election fever to subside before resuming his initiatives for a settlement.

The recent agreement between Greece and Turkey to improve relations and avoid confrontation is expected to ease his task. Whoever is elected President will inevitably visit Athens for consultations on a common strategy.

Mr Razi Denktas, the Turkish Cypriot leader who in 1983 proclaimed his own republic in the island's north, which is occupied by some 30,000 Turkish troops, has

said he is ready to have talks with the winner of the elections.

President Kyprianou's insistence that the Turkish troops should withdraw before any constitutional formula can be agreed was in line with the policy of Athens at the time, but brought him into conflict with the opposition and may have contributed to his fall. Now there are rumours that Mr Vasiliou was compelled to give similar undertakings to win over the Socialists.

Mr Clerides, who has known Mr Denktas since they were hairdressers in Gray's Inn, says he is willing to start parallel negotiations on all aspects of the Cyprus problem without pre-conditions. "We lost too much time discussing priorities and procedure," he said.

Mr Vasiliou favours contacts with the Turkish Cypriots, but places greater emphasis on flexible tactics than on a new strategy. He favours the full demilitarization of the island, as well as the holding of an international conference, a Soviet idea that Turkey has rejected.

Both candidates seem eager to end the stalemate and get the ball rolling again. They say, however, that whatever solution is agreed for the future must be the subject of a referendum for approval by the Cypriot people.



Mr Clerides: Pinning hopes on Kyprianou supporters.



Mr Vasiliou: Backs contacts with Turkish community.

## 'La Pasionara' urges unity

## Spanish Communists seek a saviour

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Spain's Communists opened a dramatic 12th party conference here yesterday, obliged to search for a new secretary-general and a new strategy to avoid risking virtual elimination at the next general election.

The 92-year-old Señora Dolores Ibarruri, "La Pasionara" of Civil War fame, urged the delegates to display unity as her recipe for overcoming the party's woes, but the conference was dominated by behind-the-scenes manoeuvring by rival contenders for the top party post.

La Pasionara was a Communist journalist during the Civil War and is best known for coining the slogan "No pasarán" (They shall not pass), the rallying cry of the anti-Franco forces.

The possibility of a vacuum

in power emerged when Señor Julio Anguita, leader of the party in Andalusia and the strongest contender to succeed Señor Gerardo Iglesias, who yesterday confirmed his refusal to seek re-election, said that his decision to decline the post was "irrevocable".

He joked: "Lenin would be our ideal candidate, but that is not possible."

Rivals of the charismatic "Red Caliph" (Señor Anguita's nickname when he was Mayor of Córdoba) suggested that this was his way of prompting desperate delegates to elect him by acclamation before the conference ends tomorrow night.

Señor Anguita is ambitious, but his demand for sweeping powers to restructure the party provides the basic reason why rivals resist his rise.

Other leaders also publicly declined the job, underlining their appreciation of the immense difficulties in reversing the party's decline. It was not ruled out that the conference might end with the party temporarily having to aim for a collective leadership.

Spain's Communists, widely seen at the launch of Spanish democracy 10 years ago as a possible rival to Italy's Communist Party in terms of national influence, now number only 62,000. They admit to a 65 per cent drop in membership between 1979 and 1983, when Señor Santiago Carrillo's influence was at its height.

Nothing conveyed the present state of the party more than the farewell address by Señor Iglesias as secretary-

general, attacking the man who first helped him into power five years ago. Señor Iglesias blamed Señor Santiago Carrillo for creating all the party's basic problems, which he admitted he had failed to resolve.

There are now only four Communist MPs in the 350-seat Spanish Parliament — six if one includes the two deputies from the allied United Left — and a popular vote at the last elections almost half of the two million in 1979, the party's highest mark.

The party's debts, now about 750 million pesetas (£E3.75 million), were also partly due to Señor Carrillo's decision to leave the party and found a rival party, said Señor Iglesias.



## Cautious change in Korea

## Roh under fire for keeping Chun men in ministerial team

Mr Roh Tae Woo, the South Korean President-elect, has affirmed a cautious approach to democratic reforms by forming a Government that reflects his policy of change with stability.

The 22-member Cabinet announced yesterday included eight ministers in the Government of the outgoing President Chun, provoking criticism that Mr Roh had not made a complete break with the authoritarian regime of his predecessor.

Seven of them retained their portfolios, while Mr Rha Woong Bae was promoted from the trade and industry job to become Deputy Prime Minister in charge of economic planning.

In a curious blend of the old and the new, the key posts of home and foreign affairs, finance and justice remained in the hands of Chun appointees.

The only notable change was at the Defence Ministry where General Chung Ho Yong, a former military commander of both Mr Chun and Mr Roh, was replaced by General Oh Ja Bok, a former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Informal sources said that Mr Roh had wanted General Chung to stay on, but the minister had asked to be allowed to step down.

Mr An Moo Hyun retained his influential non-Cabinet post as head of the Agency for National Security Planning, formerly the Korean Central Intelligence Agency.

From Gavin Bell, Seoul

A new face is Mr Lee Kwan, who is a graduate of the energy department at Liverpool University, was given the science and technology portfolio.

The only woman in the Cabinet is Ms Cho Kyung Hee, a former journalist and writer, appointed Minister of State for Political Affairs.

They will be led by Mr Lee Hyun Jae, an academic and economist, whose appointment as Prime Minister was announced last week.

Political analysts said that Mr Roh had decided, for the moment at least, to assure continuity in economic, trade and foreign policies to deal

with mounting problems in these areas at home and abroad.

But they said he appeared to have appointed a transitional team, which may be reshuffled later in the year.

The new administration, to be sworn in next Thursday, drew a mixed but generally negative response.

While it was welcomed by business leaders, political commentators expressed disappointment at what they regarded as a lacklustre Cabinet with too many vestiges of the old regime.

The influential daily, *Dong-A Ilbo*, said: "Many Koreans feel the new Cabinet is much the same as the old one... It does not correspond to the spirit of the new (democratic) era."

Mr Roh did invite the opposition to nominate somebody for a Cabinet post, but his offer was rejected by its leaders, still stalling over their presidential election defeat last November.

In a rare but predictable concert of opinion, the divided opposition scorned his selection yesterday.

The Reunification Democratic Party of Mr Kim Young Sam dismissed it as "a reshuffle rather than a Cabinet".

The Party for Peace and Democracy, led by Mr Kim Dae Jung, said it showed contempt for the people and signalled "an attempt to manipulate forthcoming national assembly elections."

After the controversy in Britain, where the same of transporting Japanese nuclear waste by air from Sellafield is being taken up in the Com-

mons this week, and in the United States and Canada, the ministry said that the need to protect nuclear material in transit prompted the move.

"We also think that a country such as Japan with a huge nuclear industry should have a role to play in promoting universal adherence... It's a very important step we have taken to ensure the safety of nuclear materials and an important step in furthering the peaceful uses of nuclear energy," an official said.

He denied that there had been any deliberate delay in conforming with the agreement, even though the text has been available for signing since 1980. He also denied any

direct connection between yesterday's move and the presence in Tokyo of Dr Hans Blix of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Japan's change of heart comes as domestic opposition to nuclear power has been reignited with a demonstration in Shikoku last week and just as a conference in the capital on nuclear safety was being held that "nuclear gypsies" are responsible for a high percentage of mishaps in Japan.

A study shows that, of the 31 accidents during the past 18 months, 68 per cent resulted from mistakes by maintenance workers and only 3 per cent by plant operators.

The report was prepared by Mr Sadaaki Miyakawa of the Central Research Institute of the electric power industry who found that 35 per cent of errors went undetected for more than a week while 26 per cent were discovered within 10 minutes.

Foreign funding for black education has been attacked repeatedly by Pretoria, but Mrs Wedderburn said she hoped the technical emphasis of her programme would steer it through South Africa's turbulent campus politics.

At the end of last year she visited 12 campuses in South Africa and decided to launch the project "in parallel" to the British Government's newly introduced schemes. Last year the Overseas Development Administration said it was spending £21 million over the next five years on black education in South Africa.

Mrs Wedderburn said she was approaching various London-based foundations to sponsor 12 black undergraduates at each of the five colleges — the University of the North, Zululand University, the University of Durban-Westville, the University of the Western Cape and the Medical University of South Africa.

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## West German film award for a gallant star



Kirk Douglas kissing the hand of Frau Friede Springer, widow of publisher Axel Springer, at the West German television "Oscars" ceremony in West Berlin, where the American actor received a special award in recognition of his long film career.

## Japan falls into line on nuclear waste

From David Watts Tokyo

Faced with increasing controversy over plans to fly reprocessed nuclear fuel into the country, Japan is to accede to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.

Though the convention has been open for signing for eight years, Japan showed no interest until yesterday in joining the 46 other countries which have signed the document.

After the controversy in Britain, where the same of transporting Japanese nuclear waste by air from Sellafield is being taken up in the Com-

mons this week, and in the United States and Canada, the ministry said that the need to protect nuclear material in transit prompted the move.

"We also think that a country such as Japan with a huge nuclear industry should have a role to play in promoting universal adherence... It's a very important step we have taken to ensure the safety of nuclear materials and an important step in furthering the peaceful uses of nuclear energy," an official said.

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## Pollution threat alarms Seoul

From Our Own Correspondent, Seoul

The mystery of the mute magpies has been solved. In recent years the morning song of the magpie, a harbinger of good news in Korea, has been waning in the densely populated capital and its suburbs, and now we know why.

According to a university graduate who has just completed a thesis on the subject, the feathered residents of his campus have fallen victim to an insidious new enemy — pollution.

His findings have been widely reported in South Korea, which is only beginning to count the social costs of its rapid economic expansion in terms of rising crime, pollution and traffic congestion. In his comparative study, he found that magpies nesting around Kyunghee University in Seoul were smaller and weaker than their country cousins. The city-dwellers laid smaller eggs, of which less than half hatched, and the survivors never attained the size and strength of the birds of the forest.

More disturbing evidence of the growing menace emerged from a medical college survey of children living near the Kuro industrial complex in Seoul and rural areas of the south-western province of Cholla. Urine samples indicated substantially higher levels of lead, cadmium, copper and zinc in the urban children. In almost every case, contamination by heavy metals was one-third greater.

An equally alarming report by the Environment Administration disclosed that acid rain falling on Seoul last year was on average five times more severe than the national safety standard. On one occasion it was 15 times the acceptable level, with a high concentration of sulphur dioxide.

A more specific and deadly threat is posed by the custom of cooking and heating homes during the bitterly cold winter with coal briquettes. According to the Korean Medical Association, a million people are poisoned to varying degrees every year by carbon monoxide from fuel, and an estimated 3,000 of them die.

Researchers are also discovering a high incidence of pulmonary infections among people living near the factories which produce the briquettes. Housewives in such areas have long been accustomed to having their washing soiled by coal dust. But recently three of them, complaining of respiratory ailments, were found to be suffering from "coal-dust sedimentation". Hitherto, the syndrome had been known only among miners and workers in anthracite coal factories.

One of the women has filed a lawsuit against the owner of an adjacent factory, in what is seen as a test case which may precipitate thousands more.

Mounting concern was reflected in an opinion poll commissioned by the Environment Administration, in which respondents said they believed pollution posed a greater threat to humanity than war — this in a country in a perpetual state of alert against invasion by North Korea. Only 13 per cent said they would live in Seoul.

With local newspapers and state television focusing on the problem, the Government has introduced some measures to combat it. All passenger cars are now required to be fitted with anti-pollution catalytic converters.

The supply of low-sulphur oil is to be increased for industry, and the use of liquefied natural gas is to become mandatory for private and public buildings in Seoul with floor space of more than 6,000 square metres.

Athletes preparing for the Seoul Olympics in September may be relieved to learn that all factories, coal depots and construction sites near competition venues have been ordered to suspend or severely curtail their operations from 10 days before the Games open until three days after the closing ceremony. Two vehicles will patrol the Olympic sites and the marathon course constantly to detect any excessive air pollution.

The prospect of gold medal hopes being enhanced by a dawn chorus of magpies, however, remains remote.

## Indians see no alternative to Gandhi

From Michael Hamlyn Delhi

Despite a series of setbacks, if there was a general election in India tomorrow Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Prime Minister, would win hands down.

According to an opinion poll published in the English-language fortnightly *India Today*, Mr Gandhi and his Congress (I) Party would win 345 seats out of the 542 in the Lok Sabha, the Lower House of Parliament. The magazine attributes this surprising result to what it calls the "Tina" factor: there is no alternative.

"No matter how much of a battering Rajiv Gandhi may seem to have taken from Bofors, Fairfax, growing economic problems and persistent headaches like Sri Lanka and Punjab — he and the

Congress (I) remain the country's first choice in an election," the magazine says.

The figure is an improvement over that produced in a similar poll conducted six months ago, when he would have won 323 of the 542 seats. But it is fewer than he actually won in the parliamentary elections of December, 1984 (415), and fewer than his mother, Mrs Indira Gandhi, won in January, 1980 (353).

Further good news for Mr Gandhi shows in his ratings when he is set against any of the likely prime ministerial candidates from the opposition. He wins 68 per cent of support against 23 per cent for Mr V.P. Singh, his former Cabinet colleague. He wins 75 per cent against 18 per cent for Mr R.K. Hegde, the Janata Chief Minister of Karnataka, and 68 per

cent against 26 per cent for Mr Jyoti Basu, the Communist Chief Minister of West Bengal. Only Mr Basu has narrowed the gap since last August.

A large change in voters' perceptions in the past six months shows up when they were asked to identify the single most important issue facing the country. In August, corruption was the main problem. Today, inflation and drought have pushed corruption into second place and 48 per cent of those polled cited prices as the most important issue.

The accord with Sri Lanka gets resounding approval. Mr Gandhi will be glad to know, with 70 per cent saying the Sri Lankan situation has been handled well, and more than 70 per cent agreeing with the decision to send troops.

## Kenya's parliamentary elections

From Andrew Backhouse, Nairobi

The first stage of Kenya's parliamentary elections will take place on Monday under the new and controversial system of voting by queuing.

Voters will stand in line behind photographs of the 796 candidates in 188 constituencies to decide who goes forward to the final stage on March 21.

There is, however, not much to campaign about. All the candidates were approved on Tuesday by the governing council of Kaim, Kenya's sole ruling party, and Kenyan policy is decided by President Moi and his closest advisers.

Out of a population of 25 million, only the 4.3 million Kenyans who are members of Kaim will be entitled to vote at this stage.

If a candidate gets 70 per cent of the vote, he goes forward unopposed, but it is unlikely that many ministers and other senior politicians will reach this level. Indeed, there is no doubt that important heads will roll in the final stage, when a maximum of three leading candidates in each constituency fight it out.

The rivalries in the constituencies are no less heated for the lack of big policy issues. The contenders vie with each other in promising benefits for their constituencies and in offering more direct entitlements, such as free meals for their supporters. Candidates regularly complain of the cost of the elections, since they must spend their own money to

and 5.6 million registered voters make their choice in a secret ballot.

If Kenyans have little direct influence on policy, they have a history of making judgements on individuals in the five-yearly elections. Even this opportunity is rare in Africa.

Only a handful of ministers, those closest to President Moi, start the campaign unopposed, and are therefore guaranteed election. Vice-President Mwai Kibaki and most of the Cabinet face one or more opponents. On past performance, several will suffer from public conceptions of ineptitude in office or the whiff of excessive corruption. The only person nobody would dare oppose is the President himself.

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President Moi: No one would dare oppose him.

stood a chance, and critics say the system encourages corruption among those elected.

There are often bitter personal animosities, going back over several elections, and there are frequent reports of both candidates and their supporters being involved in bar-room brawls, threats and smear campaigns. Three of Mr Kibaki's supporters are in jail for attacking his opponent in a bar.

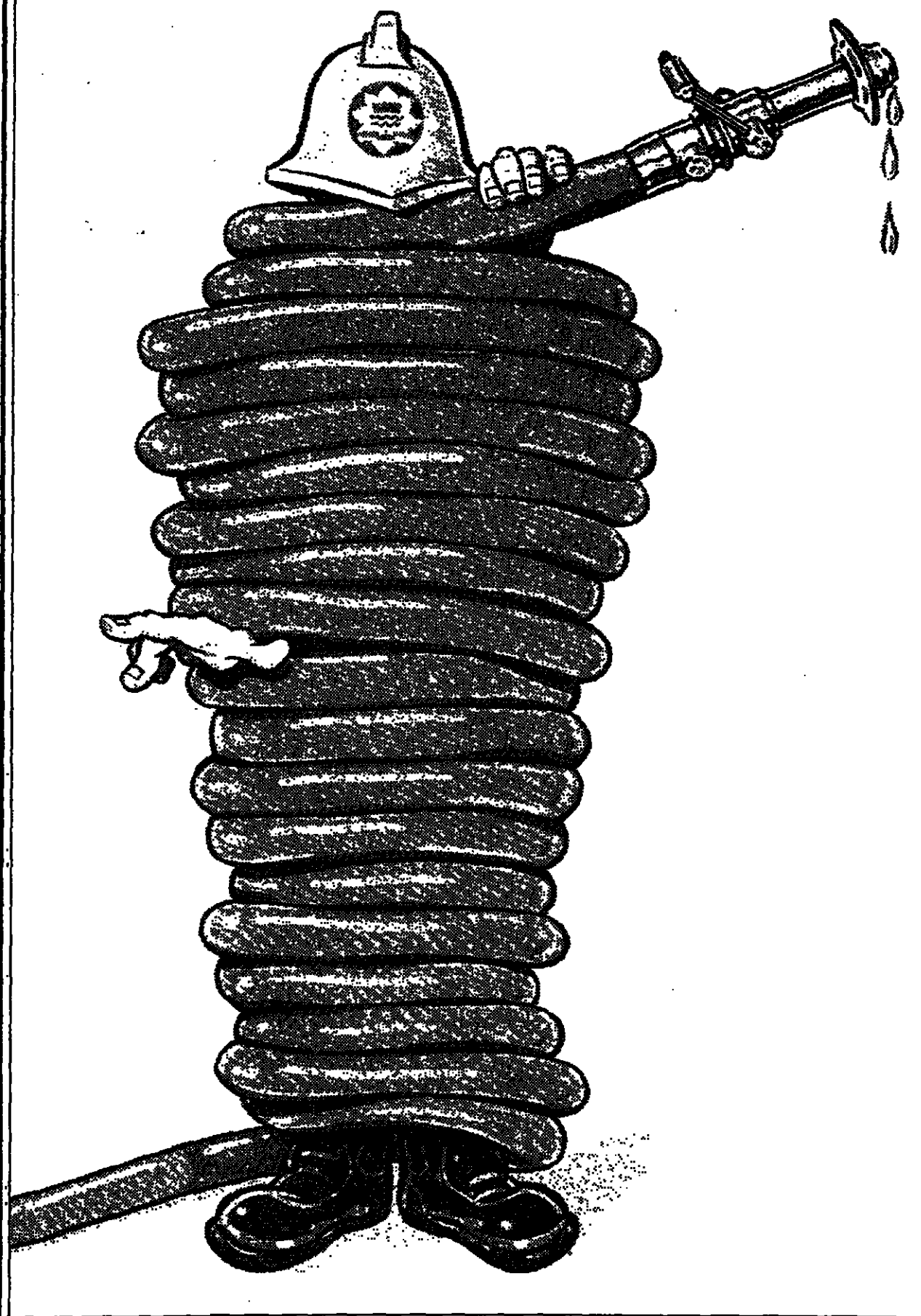
So far in Nairobi, however, the public rallies have been peaceful. Yesterday, when candidates were handing in their nominations at Nyayo

House, the provincial government headquarters, their supporters contented themselves with waving placards, dancing and chanting.

Much attention has been focused on the queuing system through criticism by churches, lawyers and even a few MPs complaining of the opportunities for intimidation and electoral violence. But the method's supporters say that it will prevent ballot rigging.

Some observers ask what all the fuss is about, anyway. A senior politician who loses his seat can always be given one of the 12 nominated seats and then return to office. Parliament largely restricts itself to the role of a rubber-stamp for legislation proposed by the Government.

The main test of both stages of the election will be the turnout. The deadline for voter registration had to be extended several times, and many Kenyans may express their disaffection with a patriarchal system that gives the elite their conspicuous affluence — while the rest face an increasingly desperate struggle for fertile land and job opportunities — by simply staying away.



IN BLUE WATCH, IT'S NOT ALWAYS EASY TO UNWIND.

LONDON'S BURNING THE SERIES BEGINS TONIGHT AT 9.20PM

LW/T



# TIMES DIARY

SIMON BARNES

The hero of the Winter Olympics is unquestionably the man the journals call Eddie "Easy Story" Edwards, Britain's lone ski-jumper. Edwards, beside himself with fright at every leap, appears to have polarized thinking on sport. People are either roaring with delighted laughter at his pricking of Olympian pomposity or are behaving like a bunch of East Germans, grim, censorious, and determinedly humourless. No one is being more East German about it than the East Germans: their Young Communist paper *Junge Welt* has savagely attacked Eddie, calling him "a self-publicizing clown". It asks: "Where would the Olympic Games go if Edwards took their place in every discipline and so discredited the sporting achievements of all those who far outstrip them in ability, yet not so far as to receive victory cheers?"

The paper says it respects courage, but when an athlete "makes the arena the stage for self-representation, it is time to call a halt". Katarina Witt, the wonderful East German skater, is not included in this censure, by the way. In fact, *Junge Welt* is positively fawning in its approach to her own performance at an enormous press conference.

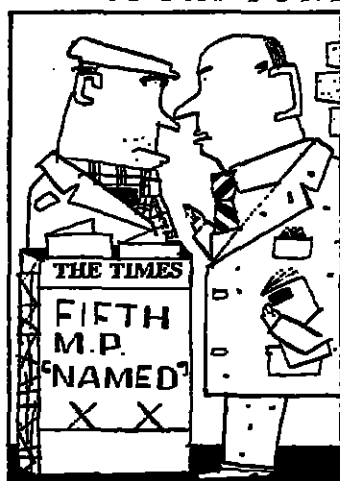
But Eddie, who leaps in the frightening 90-metre event tonight, will doubtless be pleased to learn that he has been elected a life member of the Monster Raving Loony Party. Stuart Hughes, prospective MRLP parliamentary candidate for Sidmouth, announced: "We want Eddie to join us. The other parties are always telling us to take a running jump, and if Eddie joined us, he could take off from the European butter mountain. I don't know how he'll react to the honour, but whether he likes it or not, he's an official Loony now."

● I hear that Dennis Amis, the last man to score a hundred hundreds, has a new job. He has joined a firm of funeral directors as director of acquisitions and public relations.

Now, *vraiment, pour une histoire incroyable*. A French cricket championship has been launched; it will take place at Eymet in the Dordogne between April 29 and May 1. Teams from Lyon, Monaco, and Dijon and several from Paris will take part, and they will include quite a few authentic Frenchmen. Chauny, in fact, will field an all-French side. It was founded when an English teacher was asked to explain cricket to his pupils, and realized it was impossible to do so in words. His former pupils now make up the Chauny team. There is a very good all-weather wicket for the competition at Eymet, and the standard is apparently "better than village cricket". (Yes, village, not village.)

An American gentleman got so excited watching the Olympic ice hockey — yes, really — that he shot himself. Paul Grant, aged 18, of Paducah, Kentucky, was putting his pistol away while watching the United States play Czechoslovakia. But as he did so, the American team scored a goal. Grant said: "I tensed up, and the gun went off." He shot himself in the hand with a 0.38 bullet, but doctors say he is not permanently hurt.

BARRY FANTONI



"Anyone would think he was on a cricket tour of New Zealand"

So much for rugby's tough-guy image. Tavistock have withdrawn from the semi-final of the Lockie Cup because they don't care for the vigorous style of their opponents, the Plymouth-based Old Technicians. Tavistock's former captain, scrum half Andy Oliver, had to end his playing career after being severely injured in a game against the Plymouth side two years ago. Tavistock are not alone in boycotting the Old Technicians: last season an opposing team walked off the pitch after a row about rough play. I couldn't get through to the Old Technicians by phone yesterday and discretion dissuaded me from getting on a train to ask for their comments in person.

As the morbid hunt for a soccer Nightmare XI continues, Vic O'Shea writes to me to suggest an All Saints XI: a team made up entirely of decent men. His team is, lining up in old-fashioned 2-3-5 formation: Harry Hibbs (Birmingham), Harry Bamford (Bristol Rovers), Eddie Haggood (Arsenal), Jack Crayston (Arsenal), John Charles (Leeds), Joe Mercer (Arsenal, captain), Tom Finney (Preston), Bobby Charlton (Manchester United), Reg Lewis (Arsenal), Trevor Brooking (West Ham), Cliff Bastin (Arsenal). He apologizes for all the Arsenal names, as well he might, but he gets a *Times* teamer all the same. Meanwhile, Philip Peabody, master of Wells Cathedral Junior School, writes to tell me that the presence of the school chaplain in the staff football team has prompted him to ask, have any clerics ever played first-class soccer?

Seamus Mallon, deputy leader of Northern Ireland's Social Democratic and Labour Party, has publicly expressed the view many others are voicing privately in the wake of the Stalker/Sampson inquiry into the Royal Ulster Constabulary's alleged shoot-to-kill policy. Can public confidence in the RUC, particularly among the Roman Catholic community, be restored while Sir John Hermon remains Chief Constable?

Since Sir John, his deputy, Michael McAtamney, and the Assistant Chief Constable, Trevor Forbes, were heavily criticized by John Stalker in his memoirs, their future has been a matter of intense speculation. For once Unionist politicians have refrained from demanding the resignation of the Chief Constable, a man many intensely dislike and distrust.

Their Trappist-like silence is not out of sympathy for the position in which he finds himself but because they fear that loud and public demands for his resignation will stiffen his resolve to remain at the helm of the force he has commanded for seven eventful years.

Hermon is 60 in November and can remain Chief Constable for another five years. Few expect him to soldier on until 1993 — even fewer want him to — and many predict he will retire along with his two senior colleagues criticized by Stalker.

## Richard Ford considers the future of Ulster's Chief Constable

# A man with many enemies

before the end of the year. Ever since the inquiry into the 1982 killing of five unarmed terrorists and a nationalist youth in Co Armagh began to cast its long shadow over the force, Sir John has been insistent on one thing. Barring unforeseen circumstances, he is determined to stay until the whole damaging saga is concluded.

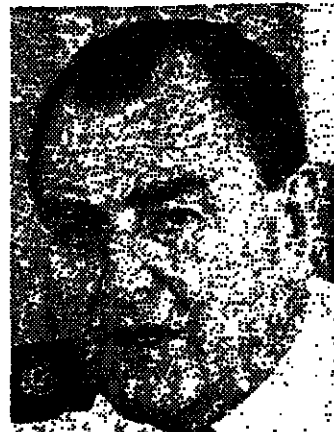
Like other organizations, the RUC has closed ranks in the face of sustained attack in the media, Parliament and from Mr Stalker. That entirely natural reaction has been helped by the fact that much of the criticism is coming from England and, whatever their political and religious differences, most people in the province can occasionally unite around one thing — a deep suspicion of perfidious Albion.

The hype and publicity circus surrounding the launch and promotion of Stalker's book has caused deep offence within the ranks of the RUC. Many believe, rightly or wrongly, that Stalker has been given an easy ride by journalists. They argue that the complexity of the problems fac-

ing the RUC in policing a society where no consensus exists have been largely ignored, along with the casualties they have suffered, by the portrayal of Stalker as a hero and Hermon as the villain of the piece. Of course, much of this is a predictable RUC reaction. And among the members of the force, not to mention many Protestants in the community at large, the roles of hero and villain are reversed.

That the two men clashed was widely known long before Stalker was removed from the investigation in the summer of 1986. Senior RUC officers were suspicious about the young outsider. His ambitions — did he covet Sir John's job? — and his abilities were questioned from an early stage. And as Stalker relentlessly pursued his inquiries, revealing alleged weaknesses in management procedures, the hostility grew.

Any outside officer carrying out such a delicate mission which went to the heart of the fight against terrorism was bound to encounter difficulties. And at some stage he was bound



Hermon: a tough line that has offended many

to come up against the personality of Hermon.

His is a persona that has increasingly dominated Northern Ireland life. One Unionist politician has said: "He thinks that he, rather than the politicians, is running the place". In 1980, when Hermon took over, it was with a reputation for non-sectarianism, professionalism and a belief in strict discipline.

His tough, blunt image mirrored his fellow countrymen. With an increasingly high profile, he sought to talk directly to the people about the role of the RUC and his general policing aims. But he was always much more than a tough-talking cop.

He had read his Irish history, was formidably well briefed with facts and figures and in the ensuing years has proved time after time to be a strategist and tactician of some skill; the consummate political animal, his opponents would argue. His supporters say that above all, as an Ulsterman, he was in a strong position to judge the public mood, and that proved an enormous benefit in the days following the Anglo-Irish agreement. While others talked in apocalyptic terms about the Loyalist threat, he never wavered in his belief that the province would not go over the brink. So far, his judgement has been vindicated.

He believes that most Northern Irelanders are more sensible and moderate than their public representatives and he has a

long-abiding distrust of politicians and their attempts to manipulate the force. Throughout his time as Chief Constable he has worked to prevent the RUC from being destabilized by politicians — North, South and at Westminster. This means, of course, that he has offended many of them.

Hermon, himself has never sought popularity. "That is not my business — command is." However his supreme self-confidence and the relish for the cut and thrust of argument have within them the seeds of danger. His attitude to discipline within the ranks and cuts in large overtime payments caused resentment.

Bringing disciplinary proceedings against the chairman of the local Police Federation brought further unpopularity and he was criticized by an industrial tribunal for behaving "unreasonably" in pursuing a case in which 31 women reservists accused him of sexual discrimination.

His position has been strengthened by his length of service and because the British ministers who serve at Stormont Castle rarely stay in the province more than a few years and take some time to understand its subtleties and complexities. But in private, while respecting his abilities, some politicians suspect he has become too powerful a figure.

## Anthony Parsons

# Mugabe's model harmony

Most news about Africa is heavily laden with gloom and tragedy — famine, drought, economic collapse, military coups, civil wars, repression in South Africa and so on. It is therefore particularly gratifying to write in a different vein about an African country, surprising too in view of the historical record.

It is not long since the problem of Southern Rhodesia seemed almost as insoluble as, for example, the Arab-Israeli dispute or the dismantling of apartheid in South Africa. Moreover, it divided political opinion in Britain perhaps more deeply, certainly over a longer period, than any other crisis in the decolonization process. It pervaded the whole spectrum of our international relations and preoccupied our diplomacy to the extent that, by the 1970s, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office became mockingly known as the Rhodesia department.

I spent many years wrestling with the United Nations aspects in London and New York. Now, eight years after the successful fruition of the Lancaster House agreement, Zimbabwe commands little attention in Britain — except when something dreadful happens, such as the killing of whites by dissident gangs in Matabeleland, or when some development excites our disapproval such as a move to a one-party system.

I have just returned from my first visit to Zimbabwe. I travelled to most parts of the country (without having to give a thought to personal security) and met many members of both the black and white communities: government ministers, senior officials, farmers, journalists, academics and others. I measured my impressions against the apprehensions of many politicians in Britain when Robert Mugabe's professedly Marxist-Leninist Zanu (PF) party won an outright victory at the independence elections in April 1980. I will recall the dire predictions at the time.

I am no expert on African

politics but, after serving for many years in different countries of the Middle East, I know something about intractable hatred, and have become adept at assessing political tension. Both appear to be absent in Zimbabwe. The atmosphere, in towns and in the countryside, is as relaxed and friendly as in any country I know, including my own. Perhaps the most amazing phenomenon is the success of the government's policy of reconciliation with the white community. Everyone I spoke to testified to this and the evidence is palpable.

In other countries I have seen how liberation struggles and revolutions lead to fierce revenge against previous regimes and to the attempted obliteration of evidence of the past. But, in Zimbabwe, the portraits in Parliament of the heroes of the struggle look across the lobby to a large painting of the members of the all-white Assembly of 1924. The Queen's state portrait is prominently displayed outside the Chamber. The parliamentary records of the years of UDI are carefully preserved: policemen and soldiers wear medals awarded by the Smith regime for fighting against those who now govern the country. With a few exceptions streets and avenues still commemorate white men some of whose names should, theoretically, be anathema. Cecil Rhodes' grave is advertised as a tourist attraction.

Even though after nearly 100 years of white minority rule culminating in a bloody war, there must be latent emotions among blacks, and although I heard a fair amount from whites about their being "economic prisoners" because they could take only small amounts of money abroad, and some laments for the "good old days", I defy any observer to deny that the reconciliation process has so far worked almost unbelievably well. It occurred to me that vengeful leaders like Ayatollah Khomeini would do well to follow my example and



spend a few weeks in Zimbabwe, and I wondered what the many South Africans, including Afrikaners, whom I saw at tourist resorts, must think about this example of black majority rule.

Where else, I wondered, would one find Marxist-Leninist rhetoric and attitudes — all Zimbabweans, including whites, are referred to in the media as Comrade — co-existing with an apparently flourishing and efficient agricultural and urban private sector? Perhaps Zimbabweans could teach even the British, the *soi-disant* inventors of common sense, something about pragmatism.

I can hear some people who have read so far expostulating at my eulogistic tone and dismissing my views as the vapouring of a starry-eyed and fleeting tourist.

I can only write as I saw and heard. Of course Zimbabwe has major problems. On the military and security front there is the ever-present menace of South African de-stabilization, while a disproportionate number of the armed forces are tied down protecting communications in the neighbouring ruin of Mozambique. Politically, although great relief was expressed on all sides that the rift between Zanu and Zapu had at last been healed, this has of course hastened the advent of single-party government with a strong streak of authoritarianism.

The main preoccupations, among all those to whom I talked, were socio-economic. Zimbabwe, like many Third World countries, has a high rate of population increase which,

combined with a massive expansion in education and slow economic growth, is threatening to produce the twin perils of considerable unemployment linked to rising expectations. Foreign exchange is scarce (local goods and services are amazingly cheap to a visiting Briton) and foreign investment is deterred by rhetoric plus discouraging and impracticable legislation. These were the topics on most people's minds, rather than the actuality of the political situation.

The Zimbabwean relationship with Britain is intimate, uninhibited and generally positive, as might be expected. The only big cloud is the vexed question of the application of sanctions to South Africa. In spite of the manifest failure of sanctions to bring down the Smith regime in

the 1960s and 1970s — indeed many of my interlocutors conceded that sanctions had stimulated the economy in terms of diversification and self-sufficiency — and in spite of Zimbabwe's own inability to apply sanctions because of dependence on South African communications for the bulk of its imports and exports, the government is committed to the doctrine. Our government is opposed.

When I argued that, following the Rhodesian and other experiences going back to the 1930s, economic sanctions worked and were not prepared to inflict damage on ourselves and create fresh political divisions in Britain for a cause in which we had no faith, I encountered disagreement but no rancour. What had aroused resentment was the argument that sanctions would hurt the blacks more than the whites; this was perceived as patronizing and hypocritical.

The further argument that, if the front line states, including Zimbabwe, were unable themselves to apply sanctions, then why should we, had also aroused anger, not so much because of its debating validity but because it looked like the strong hiding behind the weak. Perhaps we should re-examine our own rhetoric.

My observations on Zimbabwe may prove over-optimistic. I hope not. In present circumstances I stand by two judgements. Zimbabwe is an excellent place to visit for refugees from the English winter: uncrowded, efficient, friendly and tranquil, with plenty to see and do. And it is a tonic for political observers whose morale has been dented by the seeming intractability of most of the world's problems.

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Sir Anthony Parsons was British ambassador to Iran, 1974-79, and permanent representative at the United Nations, 1979-82.

## Commentary • PETER BRIMELOW

# Platoon...fired!

New York "Bearing down — but when?" was the headline on my Wall Street ruminations which appeared on this page last August 22. "There will be a primary bear market lasting several years, and many lives built on the assumption of a continuing stock market boom will be ruined," I wrote helpfully. "The market has always behaved in this cyclical way for obscure and no doubt profound reasons of its own. But the question is when."

The answer was then, as it turned out. The stock market slide began in August, and accelerated into the terrifying crash of October 19. Since then the Dow Jones Industrial Average has basically been working its way sideways.

Although I like quoting myself, I can't pretend that my column was actually of much practical value to anyone wondering whether to get out of the market at that specific point. And it gave no grounds for thinking that the Dow was capable of falling 500 points in one day. I was right about the ruined lives, though. Friends on Wall Street tell me that the carnage there, the numbers of good people fired and without any prospect of work, is worse than at the depths of the 1929/30 bear market — which by some measures was worse than the 1929/32 Great Crash.

This is worth remembering when Oliver Stone's film *Wall Street* opens in Britain in April. A great success here, it is being bracketed with Tom Wolfe's New York City novel *Bonfire Of*

*The Vanities* as the epitaph for an age.

The real star of Stone's film is the market itself in the early 1980s: the New York Stock Exchange floor and the trading room where his young stockbroker protagonist (Charlie Sheen, who also played the lead in Stone's *Platoon*) is starting his career. It's worth seeing to understand the ferocious, addictive spectacle of Wall Street on the warpath.

Somewhat less obvious is how hard Wall Streeters were working during the bull market — a hint is Sheen's grunting start "cold-calling" hundreds of prospective clients over the phone; you have to know New Yorkers' brutal manners to appreciate the true horror of this fate. Also only hinted is Wall Streeters' minimal job security. Ironically, today's brokerage house managers are probably faster to fire precisely because they remember how bad things got in 1974, whereas at that time almost no one was around who recalled the previous wash-out in the 1930s.

Beyond this, Stone's film offers further support for Friedrich von Hayek's explanation of socialism's perennial appeal. Hayek contends that the human race is drawn to the simple moralizing of socialism, and repelled by the apparent harshness of the market system, because of the millions of years it spent in small hunter-gatherer bands, where all relationships are face to face, as opposed to its few thousand years in cities, where important relationships are impersonal and indirect.

Wall Street takes the Stone Age view that manual workers are inherently virtuous, and companies are just like families, even though the corporate raider villain Gordon Gekko (Michael Douglas) delivers a stirring (and in fact irrefutable) oration on the value of greed in making the economy work.

Gekko says this at the shareholders' meeting of a company he is trying to take over — and the shareholders applaud. In fact, shareholders generally do applaud raiders, because they get a better price for their shares. Incumbent managements oppose takeovers — but then, the company is not their property.

A real-life raider, Carl Icahn, once compared the situation to driving up to a house that the owners want to sell and having the butler open fire on you with a machinegun.

What about the market itself? My favourite indicator is the subculture of investment letters, as monitored by Mark Hulbert, a young Oxford-educated Quaker, in his Washington-based *Hulbert Financial Digest*. Hulbert reports that the consensus of top-performing letters turned sharply bearish in the weeks before the October 19 crash. It has not improved much since then.

However, the absolute level of bearishness is not as low as at various points in the past. Hulbert interprets this to mean that the bear market may not be over yet — but that the world is not coming to an end.

The author is a senior editor of *Forbes Magazine*.

## SCIENCE REPORT

# Birth of a scourge

A dispute bedevilling Aids research has been resolved in an article in this week's *Nature*. It will simplify but not answer the question of how the epidemic began. The dispute has been about the identity of the first samples of the virus HIV-2, a relative of HIV-1 which is responsible for Aids.

It emerges that the original samples of HIV-2 isolated by researchers at Harvard must have been accidentally contaminated by a monkey virus. HIV-2 has infected many West Africans, but is seldom found elsewhere. In people, it causes a disease similar to Aids, but whose spread appears to be slower.

Harvard virologists Myron Essex and Phyllis Kanki first found evidence of HIV-2 when they detected antibodies to the virus in healthy prostitutes in Senegal. Tests showed that the virus was sufficiently different from HIV-1, which causes Aids in the United States and Europe, to be designated a different virus.

Attempts to isolate the virus from Senegalese blood at Harvard were successful, but collaborating laboratories were then surprised to find that the molecular structures of these viruses were very similar to each other. One of the hallmarks of HIV-1 is that different samples are markedly different at molecular level.

A second surprise was that the African HIV-2 also



Richard Leadbetter

seemed remarkably similar to a virus from African green monkeys. Since the Harvard group found no evidence of disease in people infected with HIV-2, it began to seem as if the virus was a harmless distant relative of HIV-1 that might recently have passed from monkeys to humans.

Set against that was parallel evidence from Dr Luc Montagnier of the Pasteur Institute in Paris, who first identified HIV-1 in Aids patients, and who has found HIV-2 without Aids in a few Aids patients in West Africa. When the molecular structure of HIV-2 isolated from one of these patients was shown to be very different from the Harvard viruses, surprise about the data turned to suspicion. Were

some or all of the Harvard viruses not what they seemed to be, perhaps because they had been contaminated by another virus? Ronald Desrosiers of the New England Regional Primate Centre, affiliated to Harvard, has now confirmed that suspicion.

Desrosiers' interest in these viruses stems from the Aids-like disease affecting some rhesus monkeys at the primate centre. With Essex and Kanki, he has identified the virus responsible for the monkey disease and isolated samples, showing that one of them must have contaminated the material from which Essex and Kanki isolated HIV-2 from the Senegalese prostitutes.

"This episode should be a warning for all virologists," says Professor Carol Mulder of the University of Massachusetts, who knows of five laboratories in which HIV-1 has infected cell cultures.

Surveys have now shown that infection with HIV-2 is widespread in West Africa but unusual elsewhere, and Montagnier said this week that the epicentre of the HIV-2 epidemic seems to be in Guinea Bissau, and that HIV-2 infections elsewhere can still always be traced back to Africa. Either the individuals have themselves been in Africa or they have had sexual contact with those who have.

PETER NEWMARK

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## A SEMI-PUBLIC SERVICE

In her response to Sir Robin Ibbes' report on Civil Service management, the Prime Minister has been cautious where she might have been adventurous. The arrangements for new agencies announced on Thursday are small beer. They ignore the two revenue-raising departments and the administration of social security — work which could be better managed by executive officials accorded a degree of managerial and financial freedom.

They also fail to loosen the apron strings which bind departments to the Treasury to any significant degree. The Treasury's ascendancy within the State is thus confirmed not threatened by the scheme. While that may reassure those concerned about control of public expenditure, it must dismay those who see, from the example of the private sector, that managers work best when given the freedom to manage.

The proposed reforms, limited though they are in scope, however, are good. They will provide invaluable experimental data. They will also produce a new group of Civil Service managers with experience not just of managing the Royal Parks or the Passport Office in a more rigorous way but of drafting the new administrative and financial contracts within which they will operate. The effectiveness of these reforms will depend to a great extent on the frameworks defined for the new agencies. Drafting them will be a fascinating and, it may be hoped, enlightening process for the parent departments and the agencies alike.

Reform, whether in national or local government, must be directed towards providing a proper definition of the extent to which commercial disciplines can be expected to operate in public matters. As the new agencies come into operation, their experience will augment the growing body of material which is already being provided by the industrial privatizations that have taken place and the opening of local government contracts to private contractors.

Bringing in private enterprise to perform public services will increasingly come to be

seen as only one method of making the public sector work as efficiently as possible. The agency scheme set in train by the Prime Minister this week will provide another model: the semi-autonomous public agency which is given financial targets to meet but also freedom in which to operate.

Here is a chance to learn. For that reason the emphasis placed by the Prime Minister on selecting the candidate agencies gradually rather than in haste is right. The kind of people who will become chief executives, how they are paid, how they are to account, what effects their operations will have on the parent departments will all contribute to a comprehensive exercise in empirical government.

If the process were to be conducted in the open, the experience could be still more beneficial. The press conference held to amplify the Prime Minister's announcement to Parliament was held in an impressive atmosphere of frankness. The Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Home Civil Service, a figure all too rarely seen in the flesh, and his colleagues are quite capable of standing up in public and accounting for their work without contravening any fundamental constitutional point. We should see (and hear) more of them.

Two of Mrs Thatcher's recent predecessors as Prime Minister, Lord Wilson and Mr Heath, appeared at times to be permanent secretaries *manqué*. They took an inordinate interest in the workings of the bureaucracy they commanded but failed as reformers in Whitehall. Mrs Thatcher tends to see government work as a job to be done as effectively as possible and favours those officials who can "deliver".

That was why Sir Robin Ibbes was appointed to report on the management of the Civil Service and why it was thought that the document prepared on his behalf was precisely the bold programme of change she would favour. That is also why the proposals made by the Prime Minister in response have inevitably come as an anti-climax, but they should not on that account be dismissed as insignificant.

## POPE JOHN PAUL'S CHALLENGE

The Roman Catholic Church is a major player on the international stage, and Pope John Paul II is one of the world's great men. His new encyclical, *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis*, carries therefore a special moral and spiritual authority. Yet while it deserves to be read with respect, it also deserves to be read critically.

The present Pope is a man who can move the destinies of nations, and here he addresses those nations on the ordering of their internal and external relationships. The document is an impressive spiritual treatise, but it is also a political document by virtue of its subject matter. It will inevitably be controversial.

It has been issued on the 20th anniversary of Pope Paul VI's encyclical *Populorum Progressio*, which itself updated a much longer tradition of papal teaching on social and political matters, and while Pope John Paul pays the respects due to his predecessor's document, he also manifests an awareness of some of its shortcomings. *Populorum Progressio* looked at the world, saw the gap between rich and poor, and blamed the rich. *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis* is more subtle, more complex, more realistic — and therefore more useful.

It would be an over-simplification to say that it looks at the world, sees rich and poor, and blames the East-West ideological power struggle. But its analysis of the way that struggle has blighted efforts to advance economic and social development in the Third World needed saying. It is immediately relevant, for instance, to Ethiopia. But the impoverishment of Third World countries cannot simply be laid at the door of the selfish affluent West, as *Populorum Progressio* seemed to suggest. The new encyclical shows more discrimination in apportioning moral responsibility, and more hesitation in the face of complex issues.

Church documents on political and economic questions are always open to the challenge that religion has no special expertise in dealing with technical issues, nor any means

of distinguishing effective from ineffective economic policies. But the Pope is concerned to rescue the idea of "development" from being seen purely in economic terms. In a coincidental echo of recent utterances from British government ministers, he reminds the world of the priority of the moral and spiritual dimension, and of personal responsibility.

One passage, upholding the "right of economic initiative" of the poor, will have a particular resonance in British political debate. "Experience shows us that the denial of this right, or its limitation in the name of an alleged equality of everyone in society, diminishes, or in practice absolutely destroys the spirit of initiative. . . . As a consequence there arises, not so much a true equality as a levelling down. In the place of creative initiative there appears passivity, dependence, and submission to the bureaucratic apparatus."

The encyclical cannot, however, be categorized as left wing or right wing. Balanced against the "papal Thatcherism" is a strong element of theology of liberation, though not in its Marxist dress. Pope John Paul II gives all his weight to liberation theology's "option for the poor", as a primary Christian responsibility. Part of his vision sees mankind as a unity in which every member is responsible for every other. Such realities, he says, should permeate all daily life, and the church's own rites — especially the Eucharist, and the way the Church owns and handles its property. He thus refuses to warrant the division of life into separate political and spiritual spheres.

This is the present Pope's seventh encyclical, and some of the earlier ones have proved too abstract to have any lasting impact. This one may prove more influential. It is an advance on *Populorum Progressio*, which it supersedes; it offers clear spiritual leadership, while recognizing just how complex are the ethical issues, and it reminds the world that the eradication of mass poverty is still the fundamental challenge facing mankind today.

## NO PLACE FOR AMNESTY

Amnesty International has called on the Home Office to review the cases of those convicted after the Broadwater Farm estate riots in North London two-and-a-half years ago. According to its report, some of those accused were trapped into making false confessions and denied access to a solicitor. The treatment they received, it says, fell below the standards required by the European Convention on Human Rights.

The events on the Broadwater Farm estate, which caused serious injuries and damage, and ended tragically with the violent death of PC Keith Blakelock. They left a legacy of bitterness and fear, which can have been excluded only with difficulty from the police investigations which followed. No doubt it still affects the families of those involved — on either side.

There have been other complaints since the trial which are now being investigated by the authorities. To that extent, Amnesty is simply reinforcing the claims of those who already feel aggrieved. It has a right to do so and, whatever the strength of its case, it is a right which must be cherished and protected.

But should Amnesty really get mixed up in this? The organization was founded to monitor the treatment of political prisoners in countries where the quality of mercy is decidedly strained. Over the past 27 years, it has won an enviable reputation for its vigilance, objectivity and opposition to violence. If the United Nations and others have set the standards by which respect for political freedom can be judged, then it is Amnesty which has tried to ensure that governments abide by them. Its investigations and reports have been highly reputable. In pursuit of the truth, its own standards have been high.

This is the first time that Amnesty has concentrated on the British mainland, although it has previously covered Northern Ireland. What distinguishes this report, however, is not geography, but the people with whom it deals. They have been imprisoned for serious, and in some cases violent, crimes. Amnesty has excused itself on the grounds that the riots took place in an atmosphere which was "politically charged". If one accepts that, then any number of violent criminals with a grudge against the police can claim the same. In no way can the pillage and carnage and malice on that night be justified as a fight for political expression.

This does not mean that the accused deserved to be treated less fairly by the courts. But there is no shortage of lawyers, politicians and well-meaning organizations to whom those who feel disadvantaged can turn.

Amnesty is now examining the case of the so-called "Birmingham Six", whose appeal against conviction was turned down recently — and who have been given leave to pursue it in the House of Lords. Amnesty should steer clear of this one too. These men were convicted for a hideous crime, which has no place in the politics of freedom and human rights.

There is plenty of work to keep Amnesty busy. There are nobler causes for which men fight, in countries whose courts are considerably less rigorous than those in Britain. This is not to sound complacent about the forces of law and order in this country. It is rather to argue that Amnesty International should be careful not to get its priorities wrong. If it starts to lose itself among the claims and counter-claims in cases of this kind, it will risk harming its reputation irreparably.

## Risk of new exam's collapse

From Mr Geoffrey J. Samuel  
Sir, The chief executive of the Secondary Examinations Council is reported (February 16) as suggesting that GCSE could "collapse like a house of cards" if people persisted in attacking it. The concern expressed by Mr Dines is well justified. But his criticism should be aimed at the examination boards rather than "teachers, right-wing educationists and some universities".

Despite the genuine efforts of Mr Dines and his colleagues, the boards are in a state of considerable disarray. New instructions arrive almost daily; moderators have yet to be appointed; there exists the not unjustified feeling that some boards are insufficiently prepared for the new examination.

The situation is at its most critical in English. At a recent meeting of teachers and one of the boards the view was expressed that a decision not to opt for 100 per cent course work was morally wrong. Of course, professionals are entitled to the view that course work is a more legitimate form of assessment than the traditional examination. But British employers and parents are generally committed to the concept of an "examination" and will need to be persuaded of the validity of "course work".

Virtually every training session is devoted to board-inspired propaganda that produces demands in time and commitment that are quite beyond the resources of the normal school. Faced with this unrealistic barrage, it is understandable that many teachers are responding with scepticism and with criticism.

Yours faithfully,  
GEOFFREY J. SAMUEL,  
Headmaster,  
The Heathland School,  
Wellington Road South,  
Hounslow, Middlesex,  
February 16.

## No grant for Bach

From Dr Paul Steinitz  
Sir, The question posed by Sir Peter Hall at the beginning of his letter (February 15) does indeed need to be answered by the Arts Council. The major companies are not the only ones to feel the financial draught as a result of the "decisions" made at 105 Piccadilly.

Having completed a unique and historic project — the first cycle of Bach's church and secular cantatas to have been given in this country using professional resources (208 works) — a project of 30 years' duration; for having attracted and maintained an ever-growing audience, and not just in London either; toured our repertoire throughout Europe and the USA (including Bach's church in Leipzig twice); for having raised literally thousands from as many private sources as we can muster in the absence of a regular sponsor to finance the exploratory programmes for which we are known, our "reward" for such a record of achievement is no grant at all in 1988-89!

Yours faithfully,  
PAUL STEINITZ (Founder conductor, London Bach Society),  
73 High Street,  
Old Oxted,  
Surrey,  
February 15.

## Siamese twins

From Miss J. E. Poole  
Sir, On February 3, in *The Times* Diary, Alan Coren described his journey to Cambridge to see the "Siamese" twins, Aquila and Priscilla (sic) and their cruel exhibitors depicted on an English delftware dish in the Fitzwilliam Museum. That dish is not dated, but an almost similar example, inscribed "1680", is in the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff.

Judging by literary references, monstrous births of humans and animals beset the West Country in the late 17th century and were regarded as portents. In their pioneering work, *Examples of Early English Pottery*, 1891, John Eliot Hodgkin and his wife Edith, to whom the Fitzwilliam's dish once belonged, published a lengthy contemporary account of the fate of Aquila and Priscilla by the Rev. Andrew Paschall. The birth took place on May 19, 1680, at Ille Brewers, Somerset, and Paschall saw them "well and likely to live" 10 days later.

A shorter version is given in William Turner's *A Complete History of the Remarkable Providences*, 1697. The callous attitude of that era is demonstrated by the fact that he included the unfortunate infants in a chapter headed "Monstrous animals". The depiction of the twins on the dishes corresponds with the anatomical details given by Turner.

The public then, as now, had an avid and morbid interest in such events, and this created a ready market for popular ballads about them. A different set of Siamese twins, born in Somerset on September 16, 1687, were recorded in a ballad entitled *The Wonder of this present Age OR An account of a MONSTER*, of which there is an example in the Pepys collection of ballads at Magdalene College, Cambridge.  
Yours faithfully,  
J. E. POOLE (Assistant Keeper of Applied Art),  
The Fitzwilliam Museum,  
Trumpington Street,  
Cambridge,  
February 11.

## Need to retain compulsory audit

From Mr Desmond Goch  
Sir, It is to be hoped that the Government, in its desire to be seen to be doing something about easing the burdens on small businesses, does not succumb to the pressures that are being exerted upon it to abolish the statutory audit of accounts of small companies.

The requirement for a statutory audit goes hand in hand with the limited-liability concept and it is so widely used by the business community that it ought not to be abandoned simply as a gesture to those who are seeking its abolition as a way around difficulties which they cannot overcome by other means.

The case that is being made for abolition appears to rest on the argument that those proprietor-controlled "corner shop" businesses which are constituted as limited companies do not need to undergo the discipline of a formal statutory audit. It is undoubtedly true that many such businesses are, by their very nature, unsuited to wear the mantle of limited liability and perhaps in the past it has been made too readily accessible. Maybe we should consider the possibility of introducing an alternative form of incorporation. The Government's 1981 consultative document covered much of the ground.

However, those businesses that want to retain full limited-liability status, be they large or small, should be expected to continue to be bound by the requirement for a statutory audit. Professionally-audited accounts are used by the business community in many ways. Banks and other financial institutions rely on them when dealing with borrowing applica-

tions. Large companies use them for assessing financial management competence and financial stability when they are considering dealership appointments and supply contracts.

Tax inspectors are more likely to agree assessments when accounts have been certified by audit firms of standing in their locality. Credit-rating agencies rely on them when compiling status reports.

There is a danger that withdrawal of the requirement for statutory audit might be interpreted by some directors of small companies as giving absolution from the necessity to produce any kind of formal accounts and the commercial consequences of this possibility must be a matter for considerable concern.

Limited liability confers highly valued benefits on those businesses which choose to trade in this way, but it also imposes responsibilities which they should be expected to accept without complaint. The independent professional audit is a fundamental cornerstone of this responsibility and it behoves those who are supporting its abolition to ponder on the long term consequences.

There are ways in which the Government can ease the burdens on small businesses, some of which they have themselves imposed in recent years. But abolishing the independent audit is not one of them.

Yours sincerely,  
DESMOND GOCH (Deputy President),  
The Chartered Association of Certified Accountants,  
29 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2,  
February 18.

## Power supplies

From Mr Michael Mabbs  
Sir, On Sunday evening at about 7.30pm (after a day of quiet weather) there was a power blackout in this area, which falls within the Guildford district of the South East Electricity Board. I phoned the emergency number kindly provided and on each of four occasions held on for several minutes without gaining a reply.

Having traced their number in the telephone directory which was lying open before me, my eye idly fell upon nine other emergency numbers completing the set of 10 provided for the South East Electricity Board area.

Out of curiosity I dialled each in turn and allowed at least 20 "rings" (sometimes many more) before cutting off. Not one area answered its emergency number.

## Romanian churches

From Prebendary Edward Shotton  
Sir, The Duke of Gloucester has drawn attention (February 9) to the Romanian Government's destruction of historic churches in Bucharest. From 1965 to 1979 I travelled annually in Romania, visiting all parts of the country. It was particularly noticeable that the restoration of churches was being widely undertaken and, as I was told, with the financial support of the State.

To mention only a few, I can think of the monasteries of Cozia and Horezu in Ottenia and Putna in the north of Moldavia, fully restored at the expense of the State whilst remaining religious communities of monks or nuns and centres of pilgrimage.

While it is good to hear that the rumour of the demolition has been denied, it is still particularly shocking to learn of the destruction last June of the Good Friday church.

The present Patriarch of the Romanian Orthodox Church is known as Teoctist "the Builder" because of the programmes of church building and restoration

which he initiated when he was previously Bishop of Arad, in Transylvania, or later Metropolitan of Moldavia. Because of scepticism in the West, I have accompanied him twice on visits to new church buildings under construction. It is particularly tragic that he should find himself presiding over such wanton destruction.

When the late Bishop Josif of Rimnicul Valcea received President Ceausescu at the restored monastery of Cozia, both referred to the fruitful co-operation between Church and State. Perhaps a key to this matter can be found in the popularity of the Romanian Orthodox Church amongst ordinary people.

Romanian churches are open and in daily use; at times congregations can be enormous. One can only wonder why, at this time in Romanian history, an attack is being launched on a church which has been criticised so often in the West for being subservient to the State.

Yours faithfully,  
EDWARD SHOTTON,  
As from: 7 Seaford Court,  
222 Great Portland Street, W1.

## London's traffic

From Lord Montagu of Beaulieu  
Sir, So the already harassed motorist, going about his daily business, is now to be further persecuted by the authorities with increased clamping and towing away (report, later editions, February 5). We all want less congestion in London, but the motorist is entitled to ask what is being done about other causes of obstruction, namely roadworks, building sites, unsynchronised traffic lights, U-turning taxis, broken-down vehicles and double-parked delivery vans, and now, one can add, the

obstruction caused by clamping and clamped vehicles.

Motorists would be less paranoid and relations with the authorities would improve if they could see real efforts to deal with the above offenders and a positive programme to provide more off-street parking. Unless London can come to terms with the motor car it may well cease to be one of the great capital cities of the world.

Yours faithfully,  
MONTAGU OF BEAULIEU,  
Palace House,  
Beaulieu,  
Brockenhurst, Hampshire.

## Cyprus libel case

From Mr Rauf Denktaş  
Sir, I wish to comment on your report of my successful libel action against Mr Ozker Ozgur (January 7) which has just been brought to my notice.

Mr Ozgur, the leader of the Republican Peoples Party, wrote an article about me as a person and as the President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. He wrote the article in his capacity as a columnist in the party paper *Yeniden*. The court found the article to be libellous and gave a verdict in my favour for about £100,000.

You stated that the libel case threatened to bankrupt my main political opponents. You may rest assured that there is no threat of bankruptcy as several communist organisations backed Mr Ozgur.

The percentages of the votes which you reported as cast in the last elections were incorrect. Mr Ozgur obtained 18.3 per cent of votes and I obtained 70.2 per cent. You were wrong to suggest that Mr Ozgur and other opposition leaders were alone in desiring a

central government, with some degree of autonomy for both Greek and Turkish Cypriots. The Turkish Cypriot Parliament has passed a unanimous resolution that they all aim at what I have been trying to achieve in my negotiations with the Greek Cypriot side, namely a bi-zonal, bi-communal federal republic, guaranteed by Turkey against the union of Cyprus with any other country.

Sincerely,  
RAUF K. DENKTAS,  
President's Office,  
Via Mersin 10,  
Nicosia,  
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus,  
January 26.

## Paper weight

From Mrs. O. B. Norfolk  
Sir, I have kept all the junk mail received during January. It weighed 7lb.  
Yours faithfully,  
OLIVE NORFOLK,  
Tarlinges,  
West Hanningfield,  
Nr Chelmsford, Essex.

## Weighing risk of tagging trials

From Lord Carr of Hadley  
Sir, I find the almost knee-jerk reaction in some quarters against the very idea of electronic tagging (Letters, February 12, 15) immensely depressing. Of course electronic tagging could be abused and it could be inefficient. But many of the practices at present accepted within our penal and judicial systems are also open to abuse and inefficiency.

Surely we have enough skill, determination and inventive sagacity to make more use of modern technology in support of society's battle against the scourge of crime. But we shall not do so unless we are prepared to make experiments.

It sometimes seems to be forgotten that crime itself is one of the greatest threats to civil liberty. We must certainly not get careless about the civil liberties of those suspected or convicted of crime; but an even higher priority is surely due to the liberties of the vast majority in society who are not in any way connected with criminal activity.

I suppose the greatest threat to the civil liberties of those suspected of crime is the present system of holding so many people in prison on remand and awaiting trial, often for long periods. Does it not cross the minds of those who react so instantaneously against the concept of electronic tagging that with determined and imaginative technical development, it might become a fruitful means of reducing this present Bill without creating an undue risk to the public at large or allowing criminals to escape the proper course of justice?

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT CARR,  
House of Lords,  
February 15.

## THE TIMES

## ON THIS DAY

FEBRUARY 20 1967

Just over 20 years ago the policy of selling council houses to their occupants was becoming a major political issue. Mr Anthony Greenwood, later Lord Greenwood of Rossendale (1911-1982) was Minister of Housing and Local Government from 1966 to 1970.

## COUNCIL HOUSE SALES CHALLENGED

Minister says Mr. Heath is "on to a loser"

BY A STAFF REPORTER

The sale of council houses appears to be growing into an important political issue as a result of a weekend of "for" and "against" speeches by Mr. Heath, Leader of the Opposition, and Mr. Greenwood, Minister of Housing and Local Government.

Local authorities have been selling council houses for the past few years in small numbers, and usually for practical reasons rather than policy. The practice burst into a controversial issue after the Conservative-controlled Birmingham City Council announced last week that they had sold 2,558 houses in the past nine months, and launched a pamphlet, *How to Sell Council Houses*.

The action by Birmingham, who in the summer incurred the Government's displeasure by raising council house rents in spite of the freeze, provoked Mr. Greenwood into a reply during his visit to Manchester on Saturday.

"If a local authority is still faced with an unmet demand for houses to let at moderate rents, and intends to go on building to meet that demand, what is the point of permanently reducing its stock by selling it off?", he asked.

Lost for good

"It simply means that the authority replaces existing less expensive houses with more expensive new houses. The gain on selling an old house will never meet the cost of building a new one." If a council house was sold to a sitting tenant, there was no chance of a re-let. It was lost for good and the stock of rented houses was reduced.

Meanwhile, in Wolverhampton, Mr. Heath warned the Government about their opposition to the sale of council houses. Referring to the Birmingham scheme, he said: "I hear that the Minister of Housing is going to try to strangle this well-planned initiative. Let me warn the Government now that if for reasons of doctrine or dogma they attempt to do so they will not merely be thwarting the natural aspirations of those thousands who want a home of their own, they will also have to answer to the homeless and the badly housed."

The matter did not rest there. Yesterday Mr. Greenwood, who opened a bank of flats for elderly people at Salford, retorted: "I am absolutely certain that Mr. Heath is on to a loser and that the Opposition are behaving quite irresponsibly in trying to reduce the pool of houses available for letting at reasonable rents."















February 20-26 1988

SATURDAY

A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE  
ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

# The man who freezes fame

When the famous start thinking of immortality, they call for Karsh of Ottawa. On the day his latest photographs of the Queen are published, he tells Bryan Appleyard about life in black and white

Yousuf Karsh arranges himself neatly on the least comfortable seat in an uninhabited bedroom at the Inn on the Park. His wife, Estrelita, unfurls a brilliant fuchsia wrap to reveal a matching fuchsia suit, and reclines on the bed. They are ready to talk.

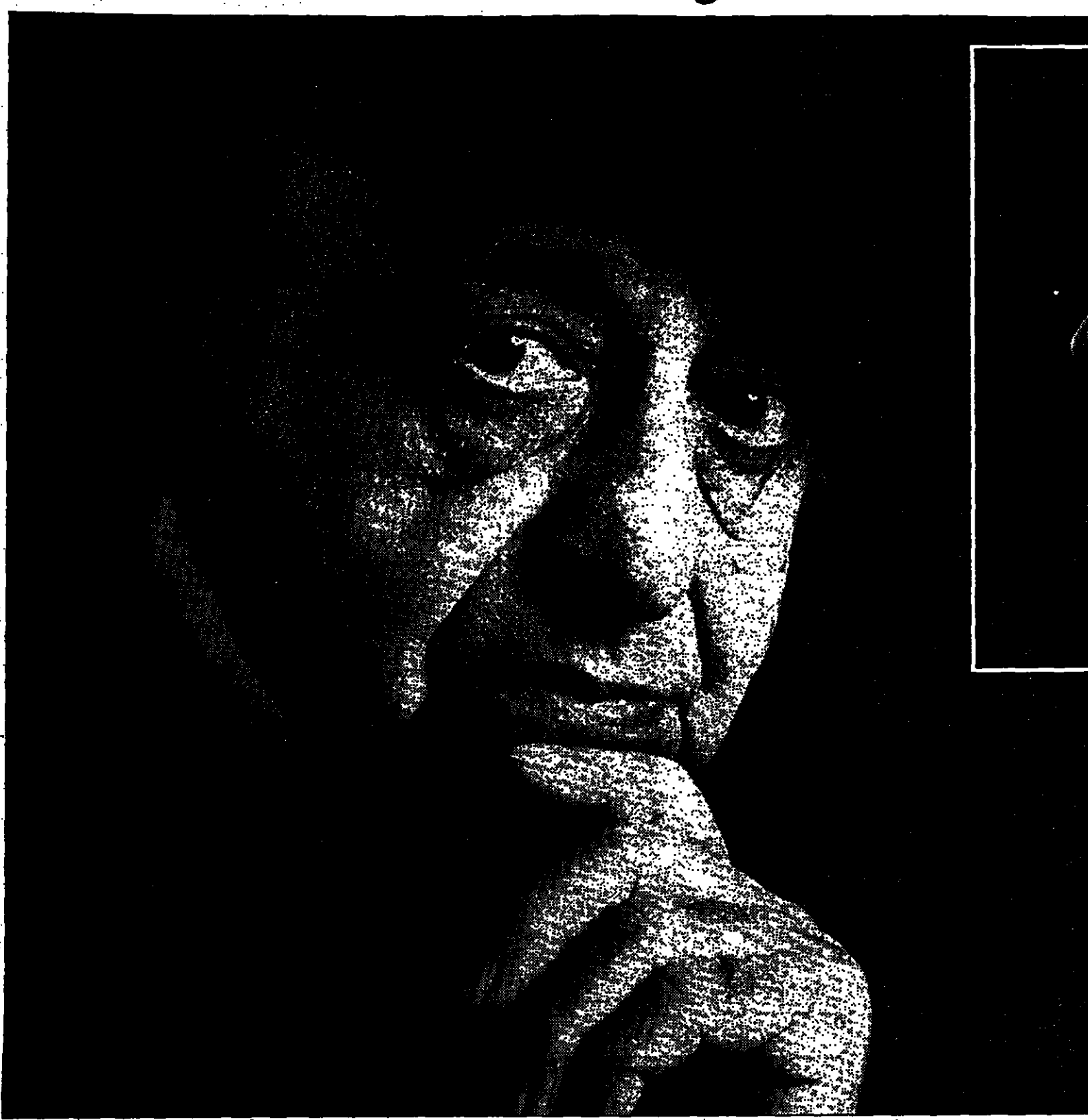
But first there is a smiling refusal to be tape recorded. "I don't know why," he says, "but I do not have a camera with me..."

Any machinery that traps life is clearly important to him. Hardly surprising, really, for this is Karsh of Ottawa, the most successful portrait photographer of his age. Since 1941, when he caught Winston Churchill at his most gloweringly bulldogish, Karsh has had unprecedented access to the great figures of the age: Pablo Picasso (photographed in 1954); Ernest Hemingway (1957); John Kennedy (1960); Fidel Castro (1971).

The list reads like a cultural and political Who's Who. Each name evokes a flawlessly executed, lovingly lit, silkily printed, pin-sharp image, the age's official likeness. Mention, for example, the name of Albert Einstein and most people will picture Karsh's Einstein of 1948. And Elizabeth Taylor, fat or thin, will never look more precisely as she would want to be remembered than in his portrait of 1946, when she was 14.

The point is that everybody who is anybody wants to be "Karshed". By some strange alchemy he has hypnotized the famous into dialling the Ottawa code at the first onset of intimations of immortality. Is this just luck?

"Well, I have always been very fortunate indeed. I remember my great colleague Edward Steichen once said



Pin sharp: Times photographer Nick Rogers 'Karshes' Karsh, and Prince Rainier and Princess Grace taken by the man himself in 1956 (above right)

that there was a lot of luck in photography. But good luck does seem to happen to the same people over and over."

Karsh, 80 this year, exudes a quiet egotism. He has bright eyes and his clothes are as sharp as any of his pictures — brown suit, brown shoes, big striped tie, gigantic cufflinks and a shirt with a startlingly vulgar band of pattern running down each wing of the collar. His voice is surprisingly thickly accented and his English occasionally a bit wobbly. When stuck for an answer he glances over to Estrelita, who invariably ob-

lises with somewhat grandiloquent footnotes.

Karsh was born in 1908 in Armenia and his childhood was spent amid the carnage of the Turkish persecution of the Armenians — "People often ask me if that background affects my work. I wish I could tell you. But I really don't think every successful person has to go through that."

His father was an illiterate merchant who dealt in furniture, rugs and spices; his mother was educated and widely-read. But as he was to write later, "crucity and torture were everywhere". In 1922, his family fled to Syria and finally his Uncle Nakash took him to Canada in 1924. He went on to spend three years studying photography under the well-known portraitist John Garo, in Boston. He started his own practice in 1932, calling it Karsh of Ottawa. The title suggested a naive immigrant pride, but these days it has taken on a curious vulgarity, as if he were a provincial hardasser.

His practice was steadily successful until the Churchill shot in 1941. The old man allowed him one picture, but Karsh wanted to lose the cigar. He snatched it from him and took the shot as Churchill smouldered. The great man then relented and allowed Karsh a second shot. But it was the look of the first — one of irritation with a young upstart — that came to stand for British determination in her darkest hour. To this day, it remains one of the great ironies of the art of photography that a passing anger at a lost smoke became the emblem of European civilization resisting the engulfing Nazi darkness.

"It was not an aggressive act, it was spontaneous. In that year the result of the war was by no means clear and to see a cigar in the face of the greatest champion of freedom, it was outrageous. I did it over so politely."

It was the image people wanted to see, and it resulted in a portfolio of pictures taken in London in 1943 — Noel Coward, George Bernard Shaw, Mountbatten, H. G. Wells and so on. That portfolio established the Karsh of Ottawa name. For the next 45 years he never faltered. He took on the role of an 18th century portrait painter, celebrating the famous as they wished to be celebrated: their clothes, jewellery and props gleaming with highlights, their faces etched and glowing. He

evolved a working method as characteristic as the pictures. Occasionally, the subjects come to his studio, but he prefers to visit them. He turns up with one assistant and, frequently, Estrelita.

"I have nothing to do with the photography," she explains, "and it is not my job to relax the people or anything like that. Occasionally there is some accidental meeting. When he photographed Khrushchev at the Kremlin, I talked to his wife. She was one of the most cultivated and educated people I have ever been my privilege to meet."

Karsh's equipment is weighty and extensive. He carries a range of Hasselblads and Leica's. His favourite machine is a 10 x 8. "The camera is just a box — that is not important — it is the lenses that count. I use lenses made by Kodak to a German design. They are 50 years old and are irreplaceable. Lenses do not get old. All the technology since has gone into the making of miniature cameras for the Press, not into the quality of the lens."

He researches his subjects extensively in advance. At the same time, he stresses, he

avoids preconceived ideas — "There are always surprises, the personality will always come to the fore."

He reckons the optimum time for a session is one and a half hours. This assumes a room he likes has been scouted out in advance. The reality seems to be, however, that they tend to give him as long as he needs. Albert Schweitzer, Sibelius and Pablo Casals each gave him what he describes as a "glamorous" two days. Before photographing the Pope, he travelled with his party for a few days.

In the sessions themselves, there seems to be not the slightest trace of conflict. "I take the mood of the subjects. I am not trying to catch them out. That is why they trust me."

There is, of course, an infuriating side to this. He mentions, for example, how Grace Kelly first appeared with her hair in rollers. Moments later, she returned looking flawless. Karsh gives us the flawless Kelly — but what about a picture of her in rollers? The point is that he simply does not see that as his job. His bargain, financial and moral, is not with his audience but with his clients. After all, they are paying some \$3,000 for a visit to his studio.

"I have to be trusted. I have sat in on Cabinet meetings. People have to know I will be discreet and will not take them by surprise. I will be quite satisfied if people say of my pictures that they know what Helen Keller or Albert Schweitzer looked like, that they have been introduced to them by my photographs."

So is he simply showing people at their best? "Well, looking at Churchill in my picture gives you faith and confidence, a sense of well-being. And the recent picture I took of the Queen and Prince Philip with the grandchildren — for the first time — makes you feel happy."

Estrelita chips in, aware that he has not answered the question: "There are two photos where the subjects definitely were not at their best. There is a very moving one of W. H. Auden and one of Robert Oppenheimer — the creator of the atom bomb — after his whole integrity had been challenged."

Karsh recalls the picture: "Yes, on that one we had him in front of a blackboard covered with figures and we found among those figures the words Do Not Erase."



The Karsh effect is always predictable. He makes statesmen look statesmanlike, artists look dreamy and intent, and his picture of Anita Ekberg is, well, all chest. His captions are the big giveaway. They must be among the worst ever written — Gregory Peck retains his "sincerity and friendly ease", Brigitte Bardot is "the French sex kitten with the baby pout", and so on. Nothing new is ever proffered.

His explanation is simple: "I am a photographer, not a judge." He only turns down commissions for practical reasons, not because he disapproves of the subject. If he does disapprove, he betrays nothing, remaining polite and businesslike. A

His life now consists of travelling the world to meet his subjects. He remains busy and in the *New Yorker* magazine there is still a small ad offering his services. Estrelita qualifies this slightly by saying it is there simply to show how he can be contacted. Occasional sessions, he admits, are failures and the pictures never "see the day of light". He was so nervous at his first big commission, taking Lord Bessborough, the Governor

General of Canada, that the shots were out of focus, but he was forgiven and was granted a second chance.

He takes casual photographs for pleasure but "for me, when I put a camera to my eye, I am working." So the family albums are limited and the only photograph on the wall at home is one of him taken by Estrelita. His working negatives, meanwhile, have recently been collected by the National Archive in Canada, ensuring that he will join his subjects in whatever immortality photography offers. That clearly matters to him, for he is far from modest about the company he aspires to keep.

"I remember a trip I made to France. The weather was very bad and I was wearing a big overcoat and a hat. I went into the Louvre and I found this little room crammed with great gems of paintings by Rembrandt. And I just had to lift my hat off..."

The exhibition Karsh: A Birthday Celebration, sponsored by Merrill Lynch Europe, runs at the Barbican Art Gallery from February 25 to April 24.

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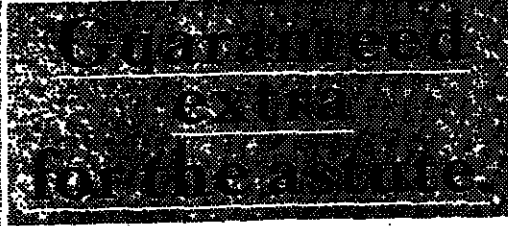
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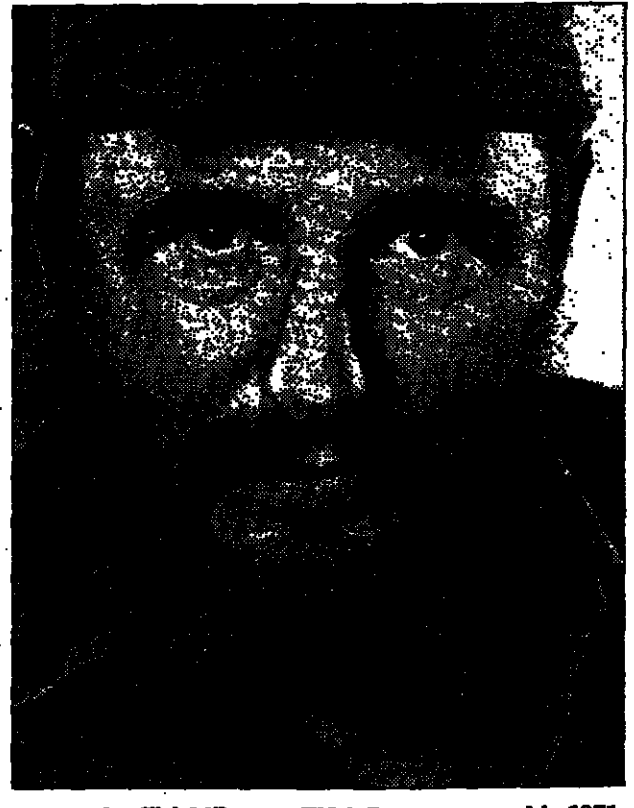
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The age's official likeness: Fidel Castro, captured in 1971

## Snap judgement

"You can even make a roaring lion stand still to be photographed."

Winston Churchill, 1941

"... The pictures themselves are nearly always overlit and monotonously predictable."

Times Literary Supplement, 1959

"Complimented with an over-elaboration of detail, Karsh's pictures show too simple characterization of his subjects. By stressing certain features Karsh gives an impression of 'bringing his characters to life'. His sponsors describe his gift in this respect as 'almost uncanny'."

But, in fact, the result of Karsh's lighting and arrangement is always to emphasize the conventional picture of his

models and never to bring out something new."

Manchester Guardian, 1953

"I think he is a great master and a great technician. He is a master of the large camera but he uses it with speed as if it were an Instamatic. By that, I mean he manages to get this extraordinary quality, but he also captures a moment that is typical. The story of Churchill and his cigar shows how he manages to set up a situation and then to add something extra."

Lord Snowdon, this week

"I think he's very solid and very strict in what he does. He has amazing energy and I respect him enormously."

David Bailey, this week

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Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

## TRAVEL

## How to survive the guillotine



The past week has provided the nearly ideal combination of plentiful snow and mainly settled weather. It has come out particularly well.

With continued settled, sunny weather and normal temperatures forecast, the prospects are excellent. But as the days lengthen watch out for the damaging effects of the sun's rays. On a clear day in the cleaner, drier mountain air at 10,000ft there is normally more than twice the ultra violet radiation than at sea level.

W.J. Burroughs

## SKI EVENTS

## SWITZERLAND

St Moritz: International Juniors bob race for 2-man bobs, Feb 24. Coppa St Moritz, 2-man Race, 27-28.

## FRANCE

La Plagne: Grand Marnier Cup Giant Slalom, 25-26 and 4-man bob races, 27-28. 4th Stage Challenge Slalom and Super Giant, 27-28.

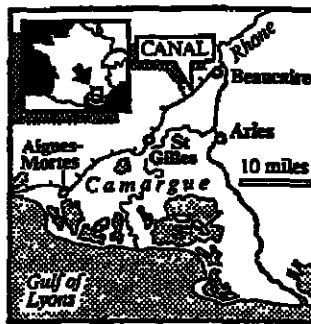
Peter Hankey

The Swallows said it first, of course. "We didn't mean to go to sea," as if that, somehow, made everything all right. Well, this wasn't the sea and there would be no parents to answer to, but nevertheless wondered how I would square things with Monsieur at the boudoir if I sank the Scamandre and all hands just an hour out of Aigues-Mortes and scarcely a page into chapter one.

"What's that?" said my mate, pointing idly forward as we puttered along the Canal du Rhône à Sète. Though still high on the crest of a holiday wave, the sight of what looked like an oil rig, straddling the canal and complete with flashing red lights, was worrying. (Perusal of the charts at the end of our cabin that night would reveal that this was the guillotine: huge sluice gates at the crossroads of the canal and the river Vidourle).

What followed was something from a Jacques Tati

On a leisurely cruise in the Camargue, Nicholas Brett and family have a moment of comic high drama, and see the bulls run



movie, in slow motion, frame by frozen frame. The crew (girls, aged seven and four) was dispatched below decks, the mate to the bows with the boat hook. Beneath the blades of the guillotine we turned helpless circles like a duck in a bath. Around the circumference of our journey we met the people of the Camargue: the big-bellied fisherman, his chestnut-coloured float bobbing, his mouth frozen open in amazement; the youths with their tight jeans and Mobykites, leaning down at us and shouting encouragement; then

the fisherman; then the oiks again. A rude blast from behind unfroze our manoeuvrings. A boat swept by, a topless Amazon bending forward in the cockpit and pulling hard at the helm. Whatever it was she shouted was lost on the breeze, but her free arm pointed to a green light twinkling on its perch high above the guillotine. (Apparently, according to the charts, the red lights had been there only to draw attention to it. Quite extraordinary.) Then it was over. We popped free.

If some holidays are about new friends, long menus and old buildings, then messing about in boats is not one of them. Had Arthur Ransome written up our adventure the chapters would have been the mundane "Girl overboard", "Picnic at Pont de Broussan", "The bittern on the bank" and "Trouble with the bilges". But nothing is more relaxing. How can it be anything else, when

Calm waters: a pénichette passes beneath one of the ancient bridges of a Camargue canal

your only concerns are where to take on water and where to moor for the night. What looks at noon like a speck on the Camarguais horizon is an hour and six kilometres later another boat. Heads pop up from below deck, some waving, some waves, and 20 minutes later you're still rocking on the memory.

The Scamandre was a pretty, broad beamed, 30-footer. She slept five with cabins fore and aft and the raised wheelhouse located well back, giving an excellent view of the bows. She was complete with a well-equipped galley, shower/WC, fridge, electric lights and a 28hp Volvo diesel. It's a traditional

French canal design - they call them pénichettes.

We arrived at St Gilles towards evening: our first "major" port of call since leaving Aigues-Mortes three days previously. What were clearly signs of a town gripped in festive mood we mistook; instead, we thought we were experiencing culture shock

## TRAVEL NOTES

French Railway's Motorail, Boulogne to Avignon, £290 return car and driver, excluding Channel crossing; £58 additional adult; couchette or sleeper £14 or £48 return. (01-409 3518). French Country Cruises have 10 bases. Pénichettes: from £358 per week (low season) to £745 (peak), excluding diesel (01-595 3642).

from being too long on the water.

Around a corner burst a little boy, knees raised high and elbows pumping, and a few steps behind him an angry black bull. The crowd cheered as the rescue charged seven riders on magnificent horses.

What we had stumbled upon was the running of the bulls that precedes the courses à la cocarde the Camargue style of bullfight in which the object is not to kill the bull but snatch a rosette strung between its horns.

Three times, youths hanging on the horns lined up the bull between two horses, their white shirts striped with blood. Then at a signal from one of the horsemen, the horns were released and the bull, head up, charged down the street flanked and marshalled by the riders. It all seemed mighty dangerous, particularly when one bull broke free and ran amok in the Café de la Poste.

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## The deep sleep of Orpheus

## TRAVEL NEWS

Double beds are an innovation for Swan Hellenic's perennially popular cruise ship Orpheus. Seventy five cabins on the 5,100-ton ship have been refurbished for the coming season. Bigger beds have been installed throughout, including "some" doubles. (01-831 1515).

● Sport of kings weekends at Swynford Paddocks hotel include visits to training stables around Newmarket Heath. The price of £125 per person includes full board and two nights accommodation, plus racing activities or-

ganized by Newmarket Thoroughbred Tours (0638-666033).

● Actress Virginia McKenna, star of *Born Free* and founder of the charity Zoo Check, is to lead a save-the-rhino safari to Zambia and Zimbabwe. The 17-day safari in July will be limited to a party of 15 and costs £1,895 from Ecosafaris Special Tours and Travel. (01-370 5032).

● Sport of kings weekends at Swynford Paddocks hotel include visits to training stables around Newmarket Heath. The price of £125 per person includes full board and two nights accommodation, plus racing activities or-

months should turn into an inveterate traveller. Backpackers' West Africa (Bradt Publications, £6.95) is the latest book by that precocious wanderer David Else. It is billed as a guide for walkers and overland travellers to west and central Africa but will prove useful to any visitor to some of the less frequently visited countries.

Having invented the "weekend" we, the British, have embellished it with the "weekend break". Angela Lansbury describes venues for many of them in *Unforgettable British Weekends* (Settle Press, £9.95, paperback £5.99). Indoor and outdoor sports catered for.

It was probably inevitable that a baby who took to the open road on the back of his parents' tandem at the age of three

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## THE TIMES COOK

## Juices rather than cream

High-fat cream should be used sparingly, Frances Bissell warns as she recommends that sometimes yoghurt can be a good substitute, even though it is not always easy to use

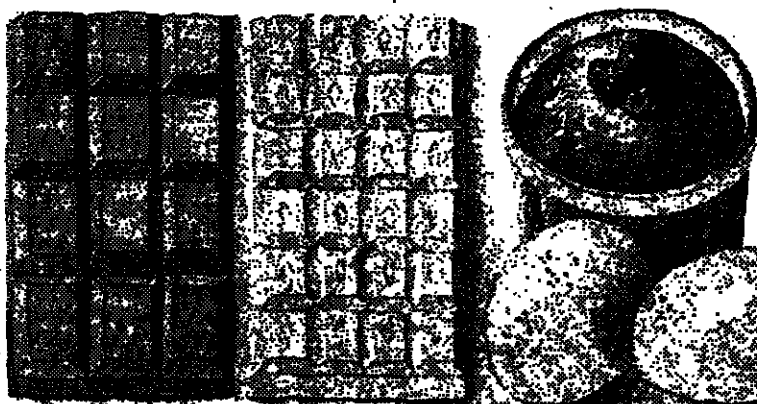
I am keen, like many people, to reduce the amount of sugar and saturated fats used in preparing food. There was a period when yoghurt was being used as a substitute for cream. Yoghurt is difficult to work with. It needs either to be cooked just under boiling point or added to a dish at the last minute or to be stabilized by mixing first with a little cornflour or potato flour. But even so, it makes the flavour of the original ingredient even more than cream. Nowadays when I think about a sauce for a meat or a fish dish, I think first about using the cooking juices, just as they are or, perhaps, reduced to a glaze. In most cases this is entirely appropriate to the dish. If it isn't and the dish really needs a cream sauce, then I will use cream, sparingly and with the lowest fat content possible. The fat content of British dairy produce is shown in terms of grams of fat per 100mls; for imported European dairy products it is shown as a percentage of the whole. Single cream has 19.3 grams of fat per 100mls, whipping 37.8 grams per 100mls, and double cream 47 grams per 100mls. Greek cows' milk yoghurt has a fat content of six per cent, thick strained Greek yoghurt made from cows' milk is about 10 per cent fat and has a rich, creamy texture and flavour which is delicious with hot and cold puddings. It is also excellent with cold vegetables, such as the cucumber and garlic dish below. This makes a very good starter to a rich meal.

#### Cucumber and garlic (Serves 4 to 6)

1 cucumber

Salt

2 cloves garlic



4 tablespoons yoghurt  
Fresh herbs

Slice the cucumber very thinly, a mandolin or a food processor is good for this. Sprinkle with salt and leave to drain for a couple of hours. Rinse and dry thoroughly, pressing between paper towels. Crush the garlic and mix with the yoghurt and whatever chopped fresh herbs you have available. Add the cucumber and stir into the dressing.

#### Mushroom salad (Serves 4 to 6)

1lb/455gm button or cup mushrooms

4 tablespoons olive oil

2 tablespoons good red or white wine

thinly peeled rind of half a lemon, lime or orange

½ teaspoon coriander seeds

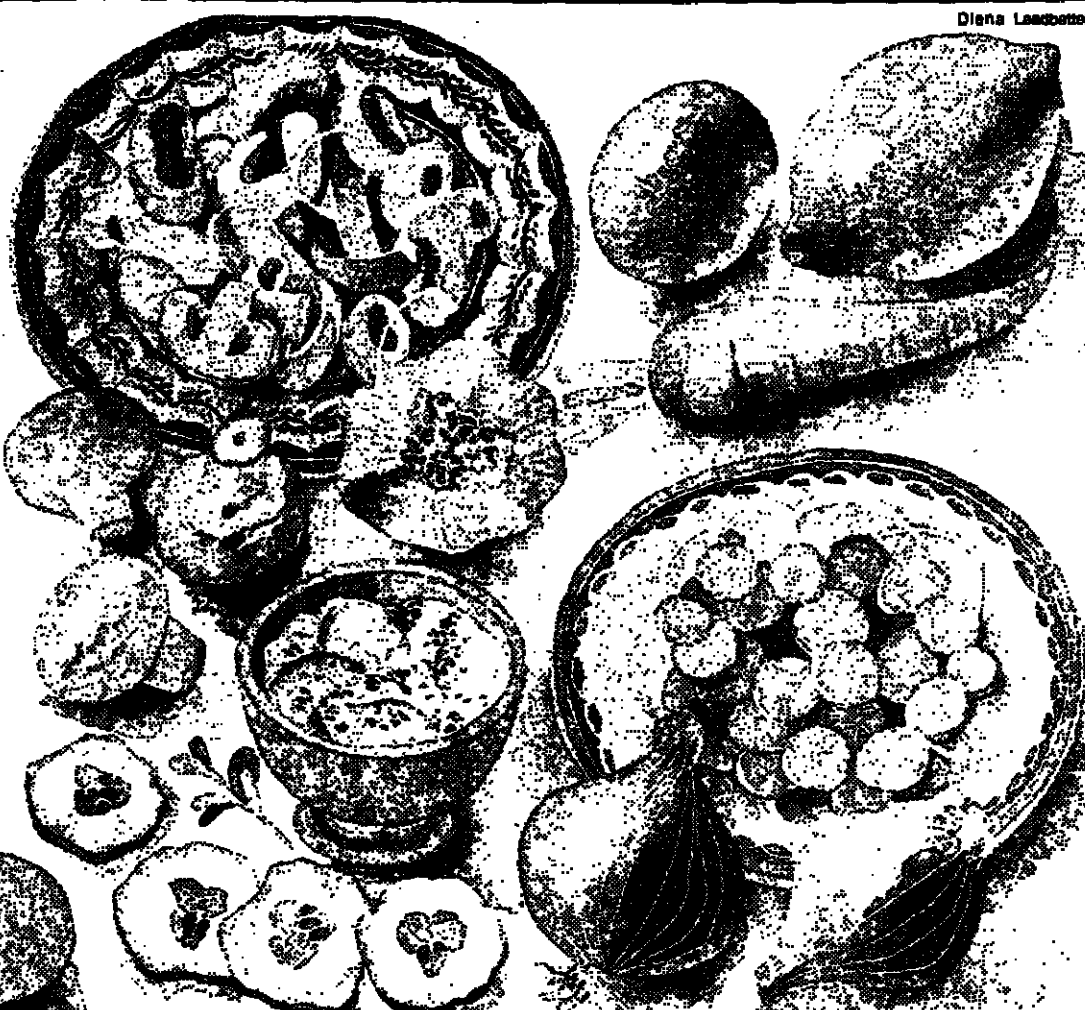
1 small onion

It seems there exist two schools of thought about mushroom salad, one for cooking them and one for leaving them raw. Sometimes I follow one, sometimes the other.

Let us cook this one. Wipe and slice the mushrooms. Heat half the olive oil in a frying pan and quickly stir fry the mushrooms, no more than a minute. Remove from the heat and transfer to a flat serving dish. Blend the rest of the oil with wine and pour it over the hot mushrooms. Add the lemon peel and the coriander and stir in. Thinly slice the onion and add to the mushroom mixture. Allow to cool before serving.

The hot mushrooms absorb the flavour of the wine and olive oil and give off their own juices to form a delicious dressing.

Pork with lemon and watercress (Serves 4)  
This is a reworking of an earlier recipe of mine, making the sauce from a reduction of cooking juices instead of yoghurt. I decided the original recipe was unsuccessful after a friend cooked it for us. Looking at it objectively, yoghurt did not work well in the sauce. I also use far less lemon juice than in the original. The real flavour of



citrus fruits is in the oil in the skin and so I use the zest. Some herbalists sell orange, lemon and grapefruit oils, and these are marvellous for cooking. The merest drop is needed.

1lb/455gm pork fillet, also known as tenderloin

1 large lemon with a good skin

1 teaspoon crushed coriander seeds

½ teaspoon ground cumin

Good pinch ground cardamom

½ oz/15gm butter (or use a non-stick frying pan)

¼ pint/140ml water or stock

4 tablespoons white wine or 2 tablespoons dry vermouth

2 tablespoons finely chopped watercress leaves

Salt and pepper

Cut the fillet into 1 inch/2.5cm slices and flatten slightly. Grate the zest from the lemon on to a plate and mix with the spices. Sprinkle some of the mixture on to each piece of meat, both sides and pressing it in well, using all the

mixture. Allow to stand covered in a cool place for an hour or so to absorb the flavours. Heat a non-stick frying pan or melt the butter in an ordinary frying pan. Place the pieces of pork in the hot pan and fry for two minutes. Turn the meat and brown it on the other side for a couple of minutes. Turn the heat down to the lowest point and cook gently for 15 or 20 minutes, until the meat is tender. If it shows any signs of sticking, moisten with a little stock or water. Remove the meat when cooked, and keep it covered in a warm place while you finish the sauce. Add the rest of the stock or water to the pan, and bring to the boil, scraping up any bits stuck to the bottom. Boil until reduced to about four tablespoons of liquid. Add the wine or vermouth and the finely chopped watercress leaves, and boil for three to four minutes until the alcohol has evaporated, and the watercress just cooked but still bright green. Season to taste and spoon the sauce onto heated dinner plates. Place the pieces of pork on top, and serve with perhaps some steamed new potatoes.

#### White chocolate mousse (Serves 4-6)

This is another early recipe of mine which was unsuccessful for other reasons. The original gave instructions to pour the dark chocolate on to the white mousse. If you do that, the heavy dark chocolate will sink to the bottom. The secret is to lightly crush the dark chocolate on to the just-set white mousse.

7oz/200gm white chocolate

2 tablespoons double cream

2oz/50gm unsalted butter

2 egg whites

3oz/100gm best quality dark chocolate

Melt the white chocolate in the cream, either in a basin over hot water or in a heavy based pan. Remove from the heat, allow to cool slightly and beat in the butter. Whisk the egg whites, and fold into the chocolate. Pour into individual pots and chill. Once the mousse has set, melt the dark chocolate, and brush it on top, as smoothly as possible. Allow to set hard.

## DRINK

## After the bread and butter

Like many of New Zealand's top winemakers, John Hancock is an Australian. Morton Brown, having planted the 26 acres of vineyards at Morton Estate in 1979 was clever enough to entice him to New Zealand just in time for Morton Estate's first commercial vintage in 1983.

Like most New Zealand wineries, Morton Estate produce a bread and butter range of Chenin Blanc, Muller-Thurgau, Gewürztraminer and the like but Hancock's finest wines are his Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon, plus recent vintages of his Sauvignon Blanc. Apart from such top notch varieties as these, he has always wanted to produce a first class sparkling wine and by all accounts his Morton Estate Brut, made principally from the Chardonnay grape topped up with the Pinot Noir, is just that.

What separates the bearded, stocky and ultra-capable form of Hancock from other winemakers in New Zealand is his extraordinary ability to produce a wide range of wines. He is dismissive about his own abilities, "It's just doing what you are supposed to do: paying attention to detail and to being careful... the best you can do is to protect the fruit, to give it your personal touch and to keep tabs on it all." Anyone who has tasted Hancock's excellent '87 Sauvignon Blanc, with its pale green-gold colour and fresh, flowering currant like scent and more delicate palate, can only agree. (Berkman Wine Cellars, 12 Brewery Road, London N7, £4.85 or £4.67 by the case). Even more impressive is the '86 Hawkes Bay Chardonnay, an earlier New Zealand vintage than the '87, whose rich buttercup-gold colour is set off by a stylish buttery-pineapple bouquet and taste that has been influenced, too, by six months spent in small French oak casks. (Berkman Wine Cellars, £6.20 or £5.93 by the case).

Jane MacQuitty

## Do you know how little it costs?

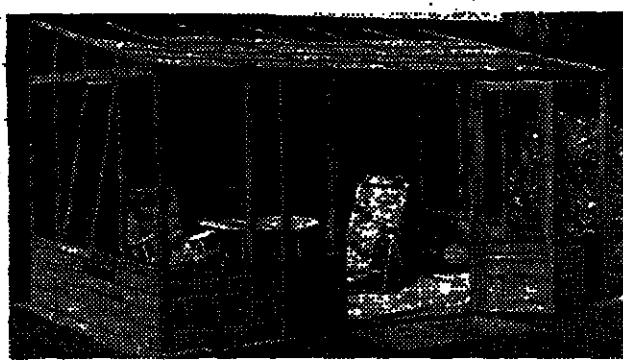
Act now, before the peak selling season and you could save a great deal of money! That's the emphatic message from leading conservatory and greenhouse specialists, Silver Mist, who are currently offering selected buildings from their comprehensive range at last year's sale prices while existing timber stocks last. Surely there can't be a better time to buy...

#### To improve your home

Silver Mist Nova and Chatsworth buildings are widely acclaimed to be the most affordable solid timber conservatories on the UK market today. An inexpensive way to increase living space and enjoy the sun all the year round. Alternatively you can use them as practical and attractive lean-to greenhouses. Available direct from the factory in both traditional rectangular and classic geometric designs in range of sizes starting from as little as £319.00 they are designed and constructed to provide years of lasting pleasure.

#### Or enhance your garden

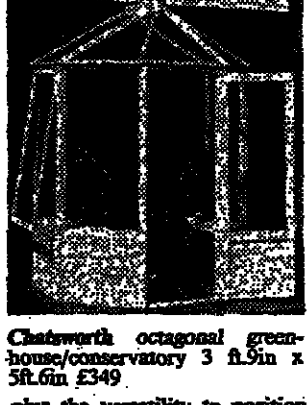
For over forty years variations of the company's best-selling Galaxy and Zodiac models have been firm favourites among gardeners who insist on the superior appearance and warm growing conditions that only a traditional timber greenhouse provides. Choose from a range of models, with opening windows, single or double doors, from only £249.00



Nova conservatory with centre double doors 13 ft. x 8 ft. 6 in. £379

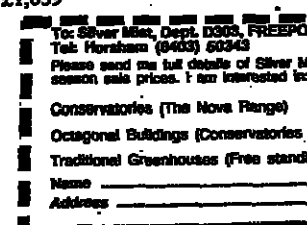
Increasingly popular with both traditional and modern home owners are greenhouses of classic octagonal styling and here too Silver Mist has the edge if you are looking for real value for money.

The smaller Astral models are ideal for enhancing those otherwise featureless odd corners. Larger Astral models are perfect for the ambitious greenhouse enthusiast and are equally suitable for use as a conservatory. All are built around the proven modular method of construction which, in common with the company's other products, provides superior strength and rigidity.



Chatsworth octagonal greenhouse/conservatory 3 ft. 6 in. x 5 ft. 6 in. £349

plus the versatility to position doors and windows almost anywhere on the building. Take advantage of early season sale prices NOW! Readers wishing to plan ahead and take advantage of early season sale prices now available should complete and return the coupon below without delay. This even applies to customers who would prefer to delay delivery until the warmer weather, provided their order and 10% deposit is received before the sale ends.



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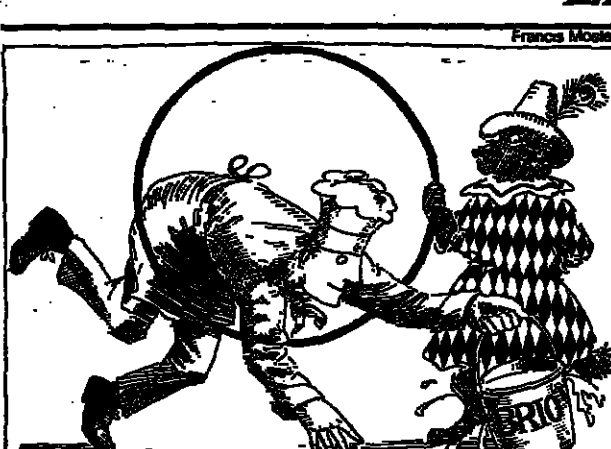
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## EATING OUT

## Topping the bill

Cavaliers' - that's where they put the apostrophe - occupies what were the premises of Chez Nico in the treeless brickscape called Queenstown Road, Battersea; restaurants too, for after Nico came L'Arlequin (perhaps the best sobriety in town). Les Fausses and half a dozen others (some of which are best avoided). I'd have thought that such a site might prove a burden to a young chef whose reputation has hitherto rested on his place in Aylesbury; well, if it is a burden it's one that David Cavalier bears lightly. He's no workhorse, rather a circus performer - which of course requires just as much hard work and a whole bucket of bribe.

Cavalier never sets out to compose anything less than a tour de force. This is a recipe for potential disaster; but, as I say, the night I went the performance was near perfect. The qualification "near" refers to a sweet built on the Ladenis principle of elements which are in themselves ordinary enough but which are intended to combine to create a greater whole: so there was honey ice cream of such sweetness that the tongue shivered, there was a rasp-

#### Jonathan Meades applauds the brio of a chef's star performance

berry sauce of similar degree of sourness, there was a thin biscuit cup, there were slices of unripe fig, unripe starfruit, unripe white peach. All this was no accident, just an over-clever idea that fell slap on its face. Otherwise the meal was opulent, extravagant, sumptuous. It began with a little "pie" of red cabbage and pine nuts served with two sauces: one of sweet peppers, the other of sweet wine. That was one sort of pastry bribe, if fairly short. A second sort, feuilletée, surrounded lobster roasted with tomato, ginger, lime and tarragon: a perfectly judged meld of herb, spice, fish and fruit. The third pastry was filo and contained a crotin of goat cheese.

One main course comprised chicken breast with a lightish tarragon sauce (fresh not dried herb); more mushrooms that had been preserved in, perhaps, sherry; a charreuse of leek; a cake of shredded

cabbage; potato and cream gratin; oyster mushrooms, baby onions.

The sheer number of ingredients, including the components of the sauce and the herbs, is daunting. A veal sweetbread was served on a (deliberately?) charred potato galette, sauced with something meaty and garnished with smoked bacon and onions, accompanied by a selection of vegetables. The cheeses, British and Irish, come from James of Beckenham and are impressive with the exception of an amoniacal goat. Best of the lot: Spewwood. This is clearly not a restaurant which aims to provide everyday cooking or everyday wine - the list is French, with an emphasis on Burgundy and Bordeaux. Red Meursault, Domaine Latour-Giraud '85 was £22 - and by no means one of the pricier offerings. With two aperitifs, two coffees (and delicious chocolates) the bill was £84; it would be child's play to top the ton. This place is a significant addition to serious restaurants.

CAVALIERS' 129 Queenstown Road, London SW8 7ZD (0850) 12.15-2 and 7.15-10.30 Tues to Sat. Closed Sun and Mon.



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#### MES LARY ing f

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## THE ARTS

## A kind of laughter

Channel 4's two new series *Friday Night Live* and *After Dark* being scheduled for unreviewable hours, I curled up with a brace of new dispatches from the sit-com zone of ITV's "comedy hour" — the launch of Central's *A Kind of Living*, and the second series of *Watching* (Granada).

The former has Richard Griffiths as a bumbling schoolmaster, pathetically dependent on his wife (Frances de la Tour) and newly transplanted from Bolton to the alien South-East; the latter, Emma Wray and Paul Bown as young unmarrieds coping with the economic dispensations of the North-West.

As is the nature of such things, each offering made a drama out of a crisis. Left alone in his new house on a Sunday afternoon, the schoolmaster got mandarin drunk and blew up the lawn mower; on a bird-watching expedition,

## TELEVISION

Miss Wray toppled into a quagmire.

Recycling fat-lady jokes and laboured puns, *Watching* relies too much on the self-consciousness of its dialogue, much of which consists of comments on the relative standard of wit evinced by the characters. The altogether less ambitious script of *A Kind of Living* allows its mouthpieces to breathe. Mr Griffiths, who has long been maturing into one of the finest character actors we possess, alternates between undignified pathos and a kind of roguish despair. Without apparently trying to be funny, he manages to be exquisitely so. Whether lecturing a frozen chicken on the history of cigarette cards or saluting his infant son in the tones of a Hollywood Biblical epiphany, he conjures a wealth of multifaceted romanticism unmined at by the bald dictates of the storyline. Beneath the ageing baby in common-room subfusc, Falstaff lurks.

Mr Griffiths's arrival in these latitudes is decidedly an event, but it would be something of a tragedy if this series grew so popular that he became stuck in the role to the exclusion of the larger parts his talents demand.

Martin Cropper

## Mr Ying and his cultural party piece

Actor Ying Ruocheng, who can be seen in *The Last Emperor*, has a more demanding role as China's Vice-Minister of Culture. He tells Jane Macartney about his efforts to encourage the arts in his country

Ying Ruocheng, China's most famous actor-turned-cultural spokesman, likens himself to a gardener. His job, he believes, is to nurture the country's writers and artists in the hope that his "plants" will put down roots strong enough to resist a political chill.

Apart from its significance in a country prone to ill-fated campaigns to "let a thousand flowers bloom", the analogy is appropriate for Ying Ruocheng, who will soon be familiar to British cinema audiences as a reasonably sympathetic prison warden in Bernardo Bertolucci's *The Last Emperor*, whose task it is to "re-educate" Pu Yi, the son of heaven also turned gardener.

It is a role the deep-voiced, chain-smoking Chinese film star plays offstage in his job as Vice-Minister of Culture, charged with mediating between artistic calls for more freedom of expression and official demands that art and literature serve the Communist cause.

"There has been an overemphasis on ideology in the arts, on the traditional view that art is part of

propaganda — or agitprop," says the 58-year-old actor, who worked with the playwright Arthur Miller to bring *Death of a Salesman* — in which he played Willy Loman — to the Beijing stage.

Ying, urbane in the extreme, argues that the state censorship that has undermined the confidence of many artists and writers — the victims of a succession of political purges launched by hardline Communist leaders over the last four decades — is waning.

"One problem in the theatre is that many playwrights are nervous," says Ying, referring to the widespread self-censorship that has greatly eased the workload of China's propaganda czars. "If people feel the time is not congenial then they won't want to present their works."

"Now there is a *nouvelle vague* in China," he says, noting the success of the film *Old Well*, the story of a young man's search for awareness in the face of feudal tradition and bureaucratic interference, and the play *Uncle Doggy's Nirvana*, which portrays the disillusionment of an old peasant caught up in the chaos of collectivization and class struggle.



Ying Ruocheng: "Marx greatly admired Shakespeare, but Shakespeare was not a Marxist."

But Ying acknowledges that it will take time to broaden the narrow ideological boundaries that have restricted the arts since the days of the misnamed cultural revolution, when faithfulness to the inane text of model operas prescribed by Mao's wife Jiang Qing was the sole criterion of merit.

"The old concepts of literature and art as weapons in political struggle don't make sense any more. We must make people able to enjoy a work of art without agreeing with all its ideological concepts," comments the actor in Oxford-accented English. "Marx greatly admired Shakespeare, but Shakespeare was not a Marxist."

With finely-cut but studiously casual blue blazer and black leather loafers, the Vice-Minister is dressed appropriately as a salesman of modern Chinese culture. While he has the air of a free agent, Ying has not forgotten his party lines, though his presence on the political stage is in itself a positive sign.

"Jiang Qing had a way of saying she was a sentinel, always on the watchout

for any hanky-panky. But that is not my role. I should try to be more of a gardener," says Ying. "And to be a good gardener, I must prepare the soil and protect the plants."

Ying is digging in stony ground. Only last year, several prominent writers and academics were persecuted as leftist party cadres engaged in an anti-Western campaign — film endings were rewritten to suit ideological needs, avant-garde domestic plays were placed under wraps while less controversial foreign productions went into rehearsal and writers stored away their works to await a thaw.

Exiled for re-education in the countryside to work as a rice farmer from 1968-71, Ying remains optimistic that better times are on the way for Chinese artists. A blueprint for reforms to curb the powers of meddling party secretaries and to give performing-arts companies greater autonomy in the selection of repertoire and actors is being drafted.

"We should trust writers and artists. There is no need to be paranoid," says Ying. "You shouldn't persecute someone just because you disagree with his views."

## Glasnost goes to the cinema

David Robinson reports from the Berlin Film Festival

Berlin establishes a peculiar first in the 50-year history of film festivals: the event is dominated by two films that are over 20 years old and freed now only by grace of Soviet glasnost. I reported from the Moscow festival the dramatic resurrection of *The Commissar* after its director Alexander Askoldov reappeared out of the blue to interrupt a debate on glasnost and demand the release of his film. Since then Alfred Schmitz's brilliant musical score has been re-recorded; and the film appears undated and sparkling with talent and vitality (in 1967 Askoldov was called incompetent and "went out of films"). It is set in the Civil War and tells the story of a tough woman Red Army Commissar who becomes pregnant and seeks refuge with a Jewish family. It was the equivocal relationships, especially between Russians and Jews, that caused official disapproval and the 20 year ban.

*The Story of Asya Who Loved But Did Not Marry* was the second film of Andrei Konchalovsky, who now works in the West (*Marina's Lover*, *Runaway Train*, *Sky People*). It is an uncomplicated picture of life in a collective farm and the same girl Asya, who has a baby but decides to do without either its bullying father or the amiable tractor driver who wants to marry her.

Even now it is a shock to see a Soviet film of this period which is inhabited not by ideal citizens and noble peasants, but by humans, imperfect, vital, loving and sinning, and as messy as real life. The old ladies sing and pray, young people lark about and get into trouble, Asya gives birth in a muddy field; and the call signs of Moscow Radio seem irrelevantly far away.

Other surprises from the Soviet Union include an engaging, eccentric tribute to the Georgian naive painter

in evidence, Andrzej Wajda, reappears with an adaptation of Dostoevsky's *The Possessed*, which he has directed on stage in Warsaw, Paris and London to thrilling effect. Sad to say the thrill is absent from the new film, a French production shot in Poland. Wajda sees in Dostoevsky a prediction of the subsequent errors and terrors of Communism. The story is set in 1870 and concerns a group of young revolutionaries in a provincial Russian town. Pierre, the fanatical leader, creates a Messianic figure out of an evil young assistant Saragovitch and stage-manages the murder of the one idealist member of the group, Shator, in order to consolidate loyalties of the rest. The moral that Wajda draws is that political systems are all finally subject to human evil.

Wajda, or the producer, Gammont, have aimed for a big market, with an all-star cast including Omar Sharif, Isabelle Huppert and Lambert Wilson, alongside Wajda's own favourite Polish actor Jerzy Radziwillowicz as Shator. The failure of the film is the screenplay, by Wajda and Jean-Claude Carrière, which is laborious and unconvincing. The spectacular moments, like the recreation of a village, are a relief, and show that the old flair has survived. Perhaps he has worked too long with the piece on the stage.

It is a comic paradox that while Eastern European films flaunt their newfound freedom and the Hungarians are calling for total abolition of media censorship, a petition is cir-



Singular: Ya Savina in the title role of *The Story of Asya*

Pirosmami, by Sergio Paradjanov (who now cheerfully says his long prison sentences gave him time to write a heap of scripts); and a remarkable collection of fiercely critical documentaries from the Baltic republics, Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia.

The Socialist East in fact brings constant surprises. From East Germany, of all unlikely places, comes an unequivocal, sentimental plea for intellectual tolerance and co-existence between Communism and Christianity.

Lothar Warneke's *Dear Ye One Another's Burden* is set in 1950, in a still private sanatorium. Here a Communist policeman, with a picture of Stalin over his bed, finds himself the room-mate of a young priest with Jesus on the wall. Their reconciliation is perhaps too sweet — things were not quite so easy in 1950 or in 1988; but the declaration is remarkable.

The Festival has come in for a good deal of criticism on the grounds that it has forgotten its function of introducing new and unknown work to an international forum, and is instead featuring commercial pictures that can be seen in regular cinemas anywhere in Europe. The criticism seems to be confirmed by the number of Berlin competition entries that feature in the Oscar nominations, among them James L. Brooks' *Broadcast News*, Norman Jewison's *Moonstruck* and Steven Spielberg's *Empire of the Sun*, all business on London screens, and Richard Attenborough's *Cry Freedom*.

## A master welcomed back from oblivion

## CONCERTS

LS/Salonen  
Queen Elizabeth Hall

It is a revealing comment on our musical culture that Luigi Dallapiccola, who died 13 years ago today, should have passed so quickly into near oblivion. His *Ulisse* opera, the major work of his last quarter-century, still awaits a British staging; very few of his works are available on record; and only occasional performances by the BBC and the London Sinfonietta keep his music in circulation here. An important modern master has thus become less visible to us than any third-rate purveyor of concertos from three centuries ago.

Last night the Sinfonietta offered his *Piccola musica*

LSO/Freeman  
Barbican Hall

Bruch, Liszt and Stravinsky are names to fill seats right enough; but Paul Freeman, Sergiu Schwartz and Alexis Golovin do not have quite the same tang of familiarity. On that basis, it seemed, London audiences had decided to give the Barbican a miss last night, and by the end of the evening it was clear that they had made the right decision.

They were an ill-assorted trio of artists; so much so, in fact, that one had to wonder exactly who was paying which piper, and who was calling the tune. None of the three is by any means a new discovery; each one is well into the middle of his career.

In Freeman we had a conductor who pushed his baton into the orchestra rather like a hypodermic syringe injecting energy; in Schwartz we had a violinist whose bow had to work overtime to cut through the orchestral texture; and in Golovin we had a pianist whose only way of sustaining a coherent train of thought seemed to be to push the pedal through the floor, and to go on pushing.

Paul Freeman, conductor of Canada's Victoria Symphony Orchestra, began the evening with a laboured *Barber of Seville* Overture and ended it with a *Firebird Suite* which, in every aspect apart from that of sheer volume, merely flickered. He drew only confused

notturna in a surprisingly incisive performance under Esa-Pekka Salonen, and also the *Parole di San Paolo*, a setting for mezzo-soprano and nonet of the poem to charity from I Corinthians 13 in the Vulgate text. The effect of this latter piece, characteristically spare, luminous and weightless, is to return familiar words to us as if from a great distance, an extreme estrangement: the vocal line has something of Webern's Alpine daring, and reaches warmth and repose only at the final "caritas", a moment beautifully achieved here by Sue Bickley.

Mr Salonen's immediacy and clarity were also useful in this piece, as they were in a little bouquet for Pierre Boulez that began with Edison Denisov's *Hommage à Pierre*, a tribute that might have some ironical intention, since the horn keeps asking questions that the other instruments

accompanying from the London Symphony Orchestra for Golovin's aggressive yet insecure Liszt First Piano Concerto, and provided somewhat coarse competition for Schwartz.

We should have been listening to Mendelssohn, but "unforeseen circumstances" gave us Bruch, and Sergiu Schwartz, whom I seem to remember playing in a Young Israeli Artists Series eight years ago, gave a sturdy, hard-working performance. His violin was not of the most keenly responsive, his rhythms and phrasing not of the most alert. But this was an honest, penny-plain performance which, in retrospect, went some way towards redeeming the evening.

Hilary Finch

Quodlibet  
St James's

I cannot think why, but the four male singers of Quodlibet were at pains to cover both extremes of their repertoire in this concert. It began with, and was thankfully dominated by, Spanish sacred music, polyphonic and otherwise, from the early 16th century.

But it ended with five disconcertingly profane pieces: three works by the 17th-century composer Thomas Ravenscroft, including the genuine, rather dainty *A Round Of Three Country Dances In One*; his contemporary Edward

deliciously evade. After this there was Boulez's own *Dérive*, with its gestures strong and its chords sounding effectively as if echoing from under water. Then the first two of his Mallarmé improvisations were sung with unusual declamatory firmness and full tone by Sarah Leonard, with the percussion accompaniment correspondingly more luxuriant than scintillating.

Elsewhere in the programme Gareth Hulse made a game attempt to revive Bruno Maderna's loose First Oboe Concerto, and there was a new piece by Nigel Osborne, *Stone Garden*, its title suggesting both the plantless horticulture of Zen and the pebbles played by several members of the ensemble. Repeating most of its moments of exotic time, emptiness and din, it was a slender quarter-hour.

Paul Griffiths

Pierce's predictably onomatopoeic *Hunting The Hare*; and, as John Cleeve might say, the extremely silly *Crows In The Cornfield* by the glee composer Thomas Phillips, who died as late as 1841.

All of which were jolly good fun, if you like that kind of thing. Yet how inappropriate to place such flimsy material, besides such delectable, predominantly Lenten music, by Spanish Renaissance figures like Pedro de Escobar (the subject of Quodlibet's first disc, shortly to be issued by Hyperion) and Francisco de Penolosa. Here was a profession of searching expressivity and imagination, clothed in the predominantly dark colours one recognizes from those masters of a later age, Victoria and Guerrero.

Qualities like the dense activity of the voices beneath the *cantus firmus* in Escobar's hymn *Hosia Herodes*, the brilliant consciousness of his *Stabat Mater* setting, and his careful attention to the meaning of the words of *Memorare passionis* all testified to a composer of strikingly intense expressive powers.

He seems to have favoured more spacious textures, influenced, no doubt, by the Flemish polyphony he heard at the Papal Chapel in Rome. And Tordella's setting of part of the lamentsations of Jeremiah revealed yet another strongly individual personality.

Stephen Pettitt

## What a Carrie on . . .

## THEATRE

Carrie  
Royal Shakespeare  
Stratford-upon-Avon

Whatever your response to Stephen King's spine-chiller about a telekinetic ugly-duckling, there is no denying that it tackles its subject matter head-on.

Menstrual and pig blood slosh abundantly through its pages. Religious hysteria outruns Salem. And when Cinderella strikes back, she devastates the whole town. Equally, when Mr King introduces a high-school dance, he gives it a down-to-earth setting in the gym.

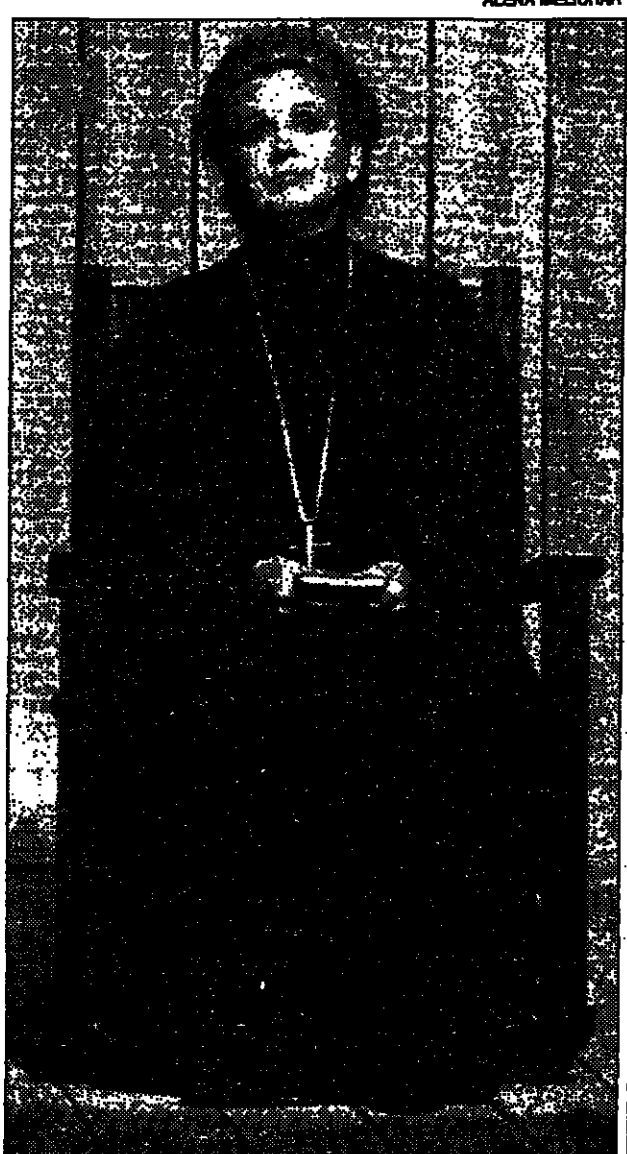
I do not know how much of this survived into the film version. But in the Broadway-bound musical which Terry Hands now unveils on the RSC's main stage, the Bible has been thoroughly sanitized and undergone a latex injection of romance.

All that remains of Ewen High School is Ralph Koltai's white plastic box where a distinctly post-pubescent chorus line thrashes through its warm-ups and showers, occasionally dropping a comprehensible word about the forthcoming prom. Come the dance itself, and we migrate to a wonderland of white satin and gold lurex.

Even when the villainous Chris (Charlotte d'Amboise) and her hoodlum boyfriend raid a farm for pig blood to drench Carrie's coronation, the episode is staged as a black leather ballet with a somewhat gaudy supporting cast. The leader in his gyrating white codpiece. They never actually get around to stealing the blood.

Maybe the authors (Michael Gore, Dean Pitchford, and Lawrence Cohen) simply decided that the horror was too much for the musical public. The most positive explanation is that Terry Hands set out to present the story from the viewpoint of its teenage characters — to whom the teasing of poor Carrie, the shower room squabbles, and the dance are events of high importance and glamour; not to be seen in the comic retrospect of *Daisy Pulls It Off*.

At all events, the show



Dual role: Barbara Cook switches from maternal to wicked

exudes all the self-pity and melodramatic fantasy of adolescent experience. Mr Gore's music runs in two parallel idioms. It comes with a pounding rock beat for the gang scenes, sometimes reduced simply to percussion. For Carrie and her mother the rhythm is cut off, and the voices explore frustrated arpeggios, never quite crystallizing into melody, over a voluptuous bed of three-chord harmony. On one side virile danger, on the other pathos.

The voices of Linzi Hateley's Carrie, and Barbara Cook as her mother, are the most thrilling sounds of the evening. And I can pay Miss Hateley no greater compliment than to say that she earns her place alongside the majestic Miss Cook who, on this occasion, demonstrates that she would be as much at home with Verdi as with Gershwin.

What the music cannot conceal is that the mother-daughter relationship has been given the compulsory love treatment; so that Miss Cook is obliged to switch between

maternal endearment and abrupt transformations into the wicked witch.

As for telekinesis, Mr Hands springs a well-timed opening surprise, and shows Carrie finally slaughtering the opposition with well-aimed laser beams (Chris, on her knees begging for mercy is unceremoniously zapped). In between there is a playful "black theatre" routine featuring a *pas de deux* for two empty shoes.

The special effects are fine, but like the rest of the production they remain detached episodes. For a musical with ground-breaking claims, this is an old-fashioned "numbers" show: virtually every scene from a drive-in movie petting session, to the pig raid making a single point and sticking to it without narrative development.

Mr Pitchford's lyrics, when audible, are banal beyond belief; but perhaps this is the show's one gesture towards teenage realism.

Irving Wardle

## A quiet day going mad at the office

## SCOTTISH THEATRE

Anything For A  
Quiet Life  
On tour

Theatre de Complicité have paid their loyal Scots audience the somewhat double-edged compliment of opening their latest show, *Anything For A Quiet Life*, north of the border. It's double-edged because the company's brilliantly inventive and largely non-verbal work is arrived at purely by improvisation. In the early stages the process of invention and selection of material is inevitably still rather more obvious than it will be by the end of the tour, even if it never stops altogether.

The opening scene, for example, a board meeting of some nightmarish conglomerate, may get dropped altogether if the company realize how over-long and laboured it is. It does, however, set up the rest of the piece; one member of the board has to return to his shabby department and sort

out the problems his colleagues have left him with.

In a set of offices simply suggested by three movable double-sided wardrobes (the designs are by Jan Pienkowski) the unfortunate bureaucrat's efforts are thwarted by a series of increasingly surreal interventions.

Anyone who has ever had to attend a meeting or sit on a committee will squirm in delicious recognition. It is, however, frustrating to feel that the piece is as yet unfinished because in many ways the show already indicates a further significant development of Complicité's work. It's still very funny in places with that Tati-inspired sense of how foolish we can be made to look by inanimate objects and the remarkable physical and mimetic control of the performers (particularly the Swiss newcomer Stefan Metz, a frightened farrier of an office junior). But the darker side is more consciously stressed than before, and there's a distinct sense of "there but for the grace of God go I... and might yet if I'm not careful."

Next week, *Anything for a Quiet Life* is at the Spring Street Theatre, Hull.

Robert Dawson  
Scott



## REVIEW

## A voice in the soul



Simon Gage

## Inside the O-Zone

O-Zone, by Paul Theroux (Penguin, £3.95)

Four jet-rotors, crewed by members of the privileged O-Zone — a vast area of the United States stripped and devastated after a nuclear war. The owners' journey generates an obsessive horror that shatters the comfy complacency of their New York City lives. This, by the standards of the novel, is no bad thing. Theroux's futuristic New York is a steady, chilling place. Security checks are carried out on every street corner; hot-house tower blocks enclose all activity; and swarms of desperate "aliens" are hunted by fascist vigilante groups. O-Zone, riddled with radiation as it may be, is in human terms a positive haven. Theroux moves swiftly between the minds of the central characters. The tenacity of the prose underlines the emotional gap between people for whom all webs of communication have broken down. This is at once a gripping adventure story, and a terrifying projected vision of a future society.

● Redback, by Howard Jacobson (Black Swan, £3.95). Howard Jacobson's obsession with the human posterior goes Down Under in this book: the self-satisfied memoirs of a conceited chauvinist, Karl Leon Forelock, graduate in moral decadence, wages a love/hate war with the Australian female after an unfortunate and fumbling one-night stand. He leaves cloistered Cambridge, sticks two fingers up at his dreary home town in the north of England, and heads off for sun, sea, and sex in the southern hemisphere. Here he meets a Bondi-beach full of eccentric Antipodeans, and shacks up with a couple of bisexual formation swimmers. Then one dark and stormy night a lady redback spider sneaks up upon him and bites him on the penile, changing his outlook on love, life, and society. Or so he claims in a story told retrospectively, self-congratulatingly, and hilariously.

Sabine Durrant

## PAPERBACK

A Part of Speech, by Joseph Brodsky (Oxford, £4.95)

The 1987 Nobel Prize for Literature, hastily splashed by Brodsky's publishers across the cover of this collection, "confirms the fact that he is one of the greatest poets of the 20th century". In terms of its spiritual occlusiveness, power, this banality is comparable only to Stalin's dictum on Vladimir Mayakovsky: Stalin, the god, described him as "the best and most talented poet of our epoch". Olympus offers a distorted view of Parousus. Oddly enough, the subject of that dictum had in fact produced, in addition to much inimitable verbiage, a handful of breathtakingly original lines that assured him immortality.

In this sense, by the time he left Russia in 1972, Joseph Brodsky had achieved what Mayakovsky had achieved by 1917. His first collection, *Ostanovka v pustyni* (A Halt in the

Wilderness), published in New York in 1970, was a safe conduit to immortality under the seal of Russian émigré culture, revealing the rare combination of temperament, wit, and sense of language which only a genuine poet can possess. Although only marginally enhanced by his later collections, that claim would doubtless endure without the scarlet letter of universal approval now stamped upon it in the West.

With the detachment of genius, at once sarcastic and languid, the poet observes an incoherent, affected, and splendidly awkward protagonist, recalling, for instance (in my translation)

That odd Crimean misadventure  
Our mutual interest in nature;  
Especially floriculture.  
I am astonished, madam, and quite sad.

This is Brodsky at his best, every inch the telescopic Eliot of "Prufrock", the surgical Mayakovsky of "Vladimir Mayakovsky". But a different hero has coexisted with this one from the very beginning of the poet's career, a neo-metaphysical personage with a

self-consciously profound agenda (in Anthony Hect's translation):

where, past all boundaries and all predicates... something, some object, comes to mind. Perhaps a body. In our dim days and the speed of light equals a fleeting view, even when blackouts rob us blind.

Brodsky's engagingly awkward protagonist was always free to philosophize, of course, or even to adapt the insights of Donne and Herbert for his use; but the reader could never mistake him for his creator. Here one is no longer sure, and it is regrettable that in Brodsky's later work the voice of his verse is increasingly his own. Perhaps it behoves the new Brodsky, Professor of Literature, author of an acclaimed book of critical essays, winner of the Nobel Prize, to sever all ties with his old antithesis.

The urge to speak out, rather than to create a fiction, is quite possibly the

most culturally destructive force of the society in which Brodsky has lived for the past 15 years, when most of the poems in this collection were written. Like his fellow Nobel laureate Alexander Solzhenitsyn, who, once in the West, began to speak for himself rather than for Ivan Denisovich, Brodsky may have yielded to this seductive force.

Freedom's foibles aside, it should be clear that Brodsky has more than deserved that highest of all titles — genuine poet — borne in this country by men like Geoffrey Hill, Charles Causley, or the late Philip Larkin. But why drop names? "Seek new ways," a Russian poet wrote at the turn of the century, "there are as many as the thoughts of God." Brodsky found one of them long ago; and even if he allows it to become completely obscured by the macabrous adulation of a reputation-conscious, honours-list milieu, it will live on in the souls of his admirers as the work of a poet, major or minor to be judged by history, but genuine and one of a kind.

Andrei Navrosov

## NEW PAPERBACKS

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:

FICTION  
Also Georgiana, by Alison Harding (Penguin, £3.95) First novel, inspired by a reference to Pip's mother in Great Expectations, about love and disgrace. At Mrs Lippincote's, by Elizabeth Taylor (Virago, £3.95) E. Lively RAF officer's wife, and her refusal to conform to service pomposity.

NON-FICTION  
Conducted Tour, by Bernard Levin (Sceptre, £4.95) Bernardo jaunting around 12 music festivals. Dorothy Wordsworth, by Robert Gittings & Jo Marston (Oxford, £4.95) The real Dorothy brought to life, as opposed to the usual spurious hanger-on.

## CLASSICAL RECORD

## Flavour of France

Mémoires de la belle Époque, Fischer. Epoca/Hell. Talcid CD 8. 43754.

There is no stopping Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau. At 63, he is back with French song, to remind us that it, too, has a place in his vast catalogue of recordings.

Some parts of his *belle époque*, it has to be said, are more belle than others. Fischer-Dieskau is not, after all, the way of a Bernac or even a Souzay: one can not imagine the former missing a lingering trace of scent in France's "Le Mariage des roses", nor the latter failing to warm to the sunlight of Chabrier's "L'île heureuse". But if this *pays de volupté* is not quite the geographical region for Fischer-Dieskau, then his abiding intoxication with language itself ensures just that quality of vestigial movement and faltering speech vital to Massenet's

"Que l'heure est donc brève" and to Hahn's "L'heure exquise".

His Saint-Saëns ballads are remarkable, too, revealing reserves of energy which were not at once apparent in the slight vocal dryness of his Gounod and Franck. "La cloche" reaches a truly ringing climax, and the romantic medievalism of "Le Pas d'armes du roi Jean" is boldly etched out.

The dancing distraction of Bizet's "Chanson du fou" is as chilling in its own way as his sense of glazed horror as the eyes stare into the distances of Faure's "Au cimetière".

Best of all, there is Chausson and his "Le Temps des lilas". Perhaps because he finds here a voice which, in its agonizing artistry answers his own, Fischer-Dieskau, with the ever-vigilant accompaniment of Hartmut Hübner, creates a spell-binding unity.

Hilary Finch

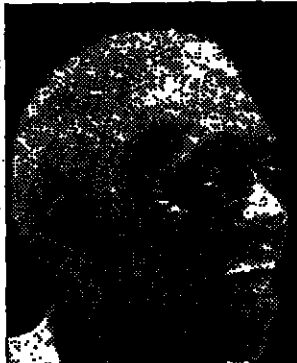
## Art Blakey's finest hour

## JAZZ RECORDS

Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers 1958 — Paris Olympia (Fontana 832659-2) Donald Byrd Quintet Live in Paris Vpl 1 (Polydor 833394-1)

No edition of the Jazz Messengers has lived up to Art Blakey's basic ideal more excitingly than the mix of the late fifties, featuring the trumpeter Lee Morgan, the tenor saxophonist Benny Golson, the pianist Bobby Timmons, and the bassist Jymie Merritt. Although its Blue Note studio recordings established this band's reputation, 1958 — Paris Olympia perhaps represents its finest hour, the audience of enthusiastic Parisians providing the perfect environment for its extrovert approach.

Now collected on a compact disc running only a few seconds short of an hour, this music was recorded over two



Blakey: absolute consistency nights but displays an absolute consistency of purpose and mood. Of the seven pieces, five are from the pen of the gifted Golson: "Just By Myself", "Are You Real?" and the better known "Whisper Not" bring his marvellous sense of melody to the basic hard-bop routines. "I Remember Clifford" is a classic jazz ballad that draws a performance of exceptional power from Morgan, and with the humorously strutting "Blues

March" Golson produced a theme that remains a staple of the Messengers' repertoire to this day.

So does Timmons's "Mosaic", its famous "amen" chords transcending the soul-jazz fad which it came to symbolize 30 years ago. Here it draws from the composer a solo that reaches a climax in avalanches of block chords, spurred on by the impressively ebullient drumming of the leader.

A few weeks earlier, the young trumpeter Donald Byrd presented his quintet at the same venue, probably to very much the same audience. Apart from its lovely and evocative cover photograph (by Jean-Pierre Leloir), *Byrd in Paris Vol 1* is worth acquiring chiefly for the work of Doug Watkins, a fine young bassist who was to die four years later, aged only 28, and Bobby Jasper, the talented Belgian who doubled on tenor saxophone and flute.

Richard Williams

## Sounds familiar

## ROCK RECORDS

Cruzaos After Dark (Arista 208 212)  
The Justified Ancients Of Mu Mu Who Killed The JAMS? (KLF JAMS LP2)

Cruzaos is a quartet of mixed-blood desperados from Los Angeles, led by the guitarist Tito Larriwa and the drummer Charlie Quintana, both formerly of the punk group The Flugs. Their second album, *After Dark*, is an appealing, if immensely derivative, shot aimed at the heartland of contemporary American taste. It respectfully recalls the work of old-timers like the Byrds and Dylan while shamelessly borrowing from the backyard, blue-collar philosophies of the current big boys, Mellencamp ("Small Town Love") and Springsteen ("Road of Truth"). Its main drawback is that it does not sound entirely honest.

The Justified Ancients Of Mu Mu is the Glaswegian duo

whose mania for illegal sampling of other people's records led to a court order to destroy unsold copies of last year's debut album. The follow-up, *Who Killed The JAMS?* is an unrepentant repeat performance which lifts lengthy sections of Betty Wright's "Clean Up Woman" Sly and the Family Stone's "Dance to the Music", even Wagner's "Ride of the Valkyries" and many others. These are moulded into strange, bustling mosaics and overlaid with frantic raps, delivered in a broad Scottish dialect.

The irony is that the JAMS consistently comes up with a truer and more "original" sound than anything Cruzaos or its ilk is ever likely to achieve. The joyously bruising momentum of a song like "Candy Man", which is a demolition derby built round the scorched rim of Jimi Hendrix's "Foxy Lady", makes this compulsive.

David Sinclair



Callow and Freeman to see. Director David Freeman will stage a second half requiring a self-combusting actor, a dolphin and a pair of seven-league boots.

● Hitherto unlikely to offend even the most bellicose Tory backbencher, Radio Three counts political controversy next month. With the Commission for Racial Equality backing a black soldier's complaint of racism, it has decided to transmit a play on the same subject. *Ticker Tape and V Sign* featuring a young black soldier's persecution, it was first performed by the left-wing 7:84 Theatre Company in 1982. Peter Cox, its author, has made the black issue so much his own that he tells me he was on the Arts Council's list of Afro-Caribbean writers for two years before they realized he was white.

Andrew Billen

## BRIDGE

## A pick from the pack

This week there are some bridge books that I can thoroughly recommend. First, *Destiny at Bay*, by Victor Mollo (Methuen, £8.95) relates some more amusing exploits of the Bridge messengers. The Hog, his appetite for the good things of life undiminished as ever. The Ruffell Rabbit, however he fumbles, still enjoys the protection of the guardian angel who watches over duffers, while Pape the Greek schemes endlessly but invariably to his own discomfort. As always the hands are skillfully devised to complement the narrative. Sadly, as Mollo died in September, this must be the last of the series.

In *The Hidden Side of Bridge*, by Terence Reese and David Bird (Faber, £9.95, paperback £3.45) the authors pose the question of whether there is anything new in bridge. By presenting a fascinating collection of hands they make an irresistible and stylish case in support of their contention that the game still affords many unexplored forms of play.

Brian Senior's *Clever Bridge Tricks* (Faber, £4.95) is devoted to deceptive play. There are some provocative new ideas and a comprehensive account of the standard deceptions which should be part of every player's armoury.

Logical Bridge Play, by Hugh Kelsey (Gollancz, paperback £6.95), has an on-site title and a high price, but is a cracking good book. Kelsey is aiming at those who have mastered the fundamentals but perhaps find it difficult to make any further progress. Using the slightly intimidating language of pure logic, he takes the reader gently by the hand explaining the easy steps required to find the winning solution. And if you think that using hypothetical syllogisms and major and minor premises is daunting, you may discover, like Mollere's M Jourdain when told that he was speaking prose, that you have been doing it all the time without knowing it.

Here is a good example of the sequence of logic which a good player brings to bear. Kelsey shows only two hands, which helps to force the reader to follow the process of deduction. Teams Game all Dealer West

♠	A 6 5				
♥	Q 4 2				
♦	K 8 7 5				
♣					
♠					
♥					
♦					
♣					

W	N	E	S
10	9	8	7
6	5	4	3
2	1		

Opening lead ♠ 10.

"When dummy goes down you see that prospects are no better than fair. North's double raise was on the optimistic side. The Ace of clubs is likely to be right, but with two losers in both hearts and clubs you must avoid losing a trump in order to make your contract. You play a low diamond from dummy. East produces the Queen and you win with the King. When you play a spade to the Ace, both opponents follow with small cards. East plays the ♠ 10 when you play a second round. Which card do you play from hand?"

The normal percentages favour the Knave, but, as Kelsey points out there is something about the early play which should strike you as odd. Suppose West had all the top hearts, or even the VAK. Surely he would have led one to look at dummy. It follows that if East has the King of hearts together with the Queen of diamonds he can't have the Queen of spades. The only hope is to play the ♠ Q and hope to drop the ♠ K.

Simple, provided of course that you take the trouble to think about it.

Jeremy Flint

## CHESS

## Underdog who has become a giant



Speelman: crossword addict quarter finals, probably in July. The following game displays Speelman's fierce fighting qualities which recall Korchnoi in the late 1970s.

White: Jon Speelman; Black: Yasser Seirawan, English Opening, Round 3, St John's Candidates' Tournament

White's opening has not been a success and Black already holds the initiative.

15 a3	Reb 17 Re1	Reb
16 Bc2	18 Re1	19 Re1
20 Re1	21 Qc2	22 Qc2
23 Qc2	24 Qc2	25 Qc2
26 Qc2	27 Qc2	28 Qc2

A bold try which carries the fight to his opponent, who stands better but was in time-trouble. 26 Qb4 would still hold the draw, albeit with difficulty.

25	16	27 d6	Re2
26 Kc2	28 Kc2	29 Kc2	30 Kc2

8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h

White's next move exerts an unsettling effect.

30 Re1	Qc2	31 Re7	Reb
32 Q7	33 Re1	34 Re1	Qc5

He should try: 34... Qc2 35 Qc2 Qd6 36 Rb1 Qb7. This finally loses.

37 Qc7	Qc8	38 Qc5	Kb8
39 Qc6	40 Qc6	41 Qc6	42 Qc6

Black resigned.

Raymond Keene

Prizes of the New Collins Thesaurus will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, February 25. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, February 27.

## CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1494

ACROSS	1 Wriggle (6)	2 Married Frenchwoman (6)	3 Run steadily (4)	4 Superstitious (8)	5 Monarch's advisors (5,7)	6 Sufficient (6)	7 Unwholesome atmosphere (6)	8 Mary Queen of Scots last prison (12)	9 Breaking up (8)	10 Cunning (4)	11 Pure, decent (6)	12 Beat soundly (6)
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DOWN	1 Brood resentfully (4)	2 On top (9)	3 Happy (5)	4 Virile, masculine (5)	5 Rance River resort (5)	6 Upper Nile warriors (5)	7 Putting into service (5)	8 San Jose state (5,4)	9 Go in front (4)	10 Complaint (4)	11 Sex appeal (5)	12 Party-givers (5)	13 Bonn river (5)	14 Darknes period (5)	15 Net (4)
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SOLUTION TO NO 1493  
ACROSS: 1 Aisle 2 Banal 3 Unto 4 Turbojet 5 Vehicle 11 Wotan 12 Thunderstruck 15 Hippo 16 Bargain 20 Sleetstorm 21 Gilt 22 Eumach 23 Recess

DOWN: 1 Aquaviv 2 Latch 3 Petal 4 Bard 5 Jupitua 6 Latin 10 Cuddy 11 Water 13 Umpteen 14 Kindles 15 Haste 17 Abner 18 Alice 19 Ice

The winners of prize concise No 1488 are: Miss J. Downing, Tighe, Buxton Road, Frettenham, Norwich, S. and J. Dowd, 57 Marlard Fold, Rochdale, Lancs.

SOLUTION TO NO 1488 (last Saturday's prize concise)  
ACROSS: 1 Nickel 4 Far-off 7 Comy 8 Grandeur 9 Fingerpunch 15 Commit 16 Stamen 17 Easter Rising 23 Fall-asle 24 Iffy 25 Beret 26 Shelve

DOWN: 1 Nio 2 Candemas 3 Light 4 Fair 5 Rodco 6 Fouts 10 Twine 11 Melts 12 Umfingid 13 Erue 14 Acas 15 Abuse 19 Tulle 20 Roast 21 Items 22 Pyre

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_



## THE WEEK AHEAD



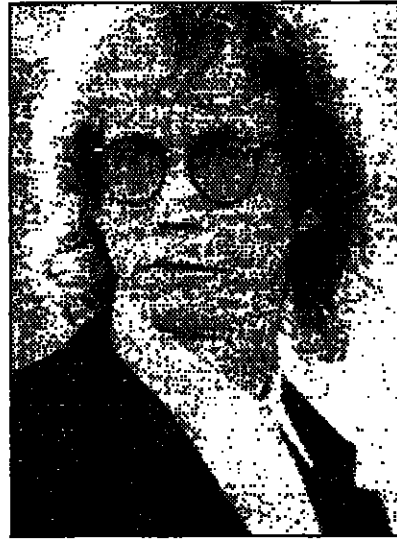
## FILMS

**BERTOLUCCI'S BLOCKBUSTER:** Peter O'Toole puts his quirks to suitable use as the Scottish tutor Reginald Johnston in Bernardo Bertolucci's *The Last Emperor* (15). This gorgeously photographed epic, the first Western film to use China's Forbidden City as locations, tells the extraordinary story of Pu Yi, who ascended the throne in 1908, aged three, abdicated at six, became a Western-style playboy, and lived to become a model communist citizen. With John Lone. Odeon Leicester Square (01-930 6111), from Friday.



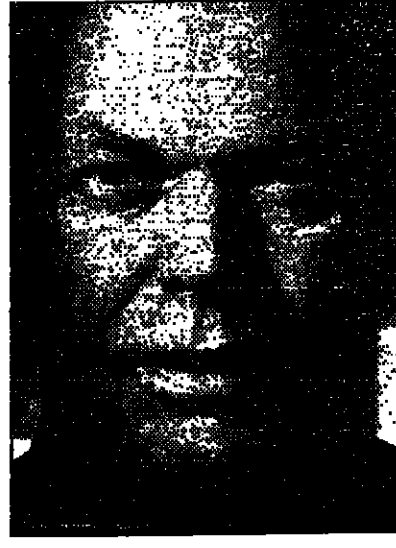
## THEATRE

**SISTER SUE:** Suzan Sylvester plays Annabella, incestuously involved with her brother Giovanni (Rupert Graves) in the new National Theatre production of the 17th century drama *'Tis Pity She's a Whore*, by John Ford. Nominated as Most Promising Newcomer in the Olivier Awards 1987 for her performance in *A View from the Bridge*, she has also been seen on the South Bank in *A Small Family Business* by Alan Ayckbourn, who again directs her in this. Olivier (01-928 2252). Previews from Thursday. Opens March 3.



## ROCK

**HIT MAN:** Warren Zevon came to prominence along with Jackson Browne and the Eagles, as one of the Asylum label's Californian mafia. Best remembered for his 1978 hit, *'Werewolves Of London'*, he dropped out of circulation after his 1982 album, *Envoy*. Last year's *Sentimental Hygiene*, which boasted contributions from stellar sidemen like Bob Dylan and Neil Young, heralded a magnificent return to witty, brooding form. His first British concert for five years is on Thursday, Hammersmith Odeon (01-748 4081).



## GALLERIES

**MONROE DOCTRINE:** Mark Lancaster has not exhibited in London recently, having spent much of the last dozen years in New York. In 1964 he helped in Andy Warhol's Manhattan Factory where he learnt to invent and master of Business Art. It was his shock at Andy's death which inspired the latest works, a series of variations on Warhol's famous head of Marilyn. His Post-Warhol Souvenirs are on show at Mayor Rowan Gallery, London W1 (01-499 3011). From Thursday.



## DANCE

**LAST DANCE:** Antoinette Sibley, the Royal Ballet's senior ballerina, makes only occasional appearances nowadays as a guest artist. *Manon* may be her last performance in a role created for her in 1974, was a strong dramatic contrast to the lyrical parts with which she was generally associated. Anthony Dowell, who shared the ballet's premiere, will again play Des Grieux this time, with Stephen Jefferies as Manon's unscrupulous big brother. Covent Garden (01-240 1066), Wednesday.



## OPERA

**BILLY BOY:** Thomas Allen makes a rare appearance with the ENO to take the title role of Britten's *Billy Budd* in Tim Albery's new production. It is a part he has already sung with the WNO and at Covent Garden; the Met in New York is to follow. Allen next turns his attention to Mandryka in Richard Strauss's *Arabella* for the Munich State Opera. He is expected to return to the Salzburg Festival in the build-up to the Mozart bicentenary in 1991. Coliseum, London (01-336 3161) on Wednesday and February 27.

## THEATRE LONDON

**HOME WORK:** Second season of British "performance" or experimental theatre, begins with Gary Stevens (formerly of Station House Opera) and a cast of five in *Different Ghosts*. Institute of Contemporary Arts, The Mall, London SW1 (01-930 3647). Opens Tues.

**THE LITTLE BLACK BOOK:** Jean Lapointe and Jean-Pierre Cassel in a new company, Mollière & Co, presenting *L'alcôve-mémoire* by Jean-Claude Carrière. First and third weeks in English, second week in French. Theatre Artaud, French Institute, Queensberry Place, SW7 (01-589 8211). Previews from Tues. Opens Thurs.

**MACK & MABEL:** Composer/lyricist Jerry Herman will be present at this one-off performance of a "cult" musical not yet seen in London. With Georgia Brown, Tommy Tune, Karen Morrow, George Hearn, Andrea McArdle, Denis Quilley, Denis Lawson, Frances Ruffelle, Robert Meadmore. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane (01-938 8108). Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

**THE POSSIBILITIES:** Not the RSC and Almeida Company present the world premiere of 10 short plays by Howard Barker, forming the core of a festival of new work—readings, staged and otherwise, poems and a television play script. Almeida Theatre, Almeida Street, N1 (01-369 4404). Previews Tues and Wed. Opens Thurs. Until Mar 19.

**SALT RIVER:** Mavroumne Bryoulard heads the cast of Yana Stagno's first play, about a white Cape Town woman and her love black. Directed by Julia Pascual. Oval House, 54 Kennington Oval, SE11 (01-582 7688). Opens Wed.

## OUT OF TOWN

**EDINBURGH:** Cat on a Hot Tin Roof: National Theatre's new production, with Ian Charleson, Lindsay Duncan, Eric Porter. King's Theatre (031 229 1201). Opens Mon. Until Feb 27.

**LUTON:** A Child in the Heart: Joint Stock touring their latest show, by Karim Alrawi, directed by Nick Broadhurst. Cast includes Souad Farees. St George's Theatre (0562 21228). Tues and Wed. Moves to Library Theatre, Manchester (061 236 7110). Thurs-Feb 27.

**MANCHESTER:** All My Sons: John Thew makes his debut here in an Arthur Miller classic directed by Gregory Hersov. Royal Exchange (061 833 9833). Preview Wed. Opens Thurs.

## CONCERTS

**VARIED THEME:** The "Theme with Variations" series devoted to British music continues with the BBC SO playing Walton's *Capriccio* Overture and Hindemith's *Violin Concerto* (Paul Silverthorne, soloist) and Elgar's "Enigma" variations. James Loughran conducts. Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-628 6795, cc 01-638 8891). Today 7.45pm.

**WORD-WATCHING:** Answers from page 22. **GALDRAGON:** (c) Shead for a sorcerer, from the Old Norse *gald* meaning incantation, *drakon*, *drak* meaning dragon.

**SPADIX:** (a) A form of inflorescence consisting of a thick fleshy spike, closely set with flowers, and enclosed in a spathe, from the Greek *spadix* a palm branch.

**MORFIN:** (b) A beast that dies by disease or accident, from the Latin *morfin*, from the Latin *morfin*, from the Greek *morfin* a pain.

**VARTABED:** (c) A member of an order of clergy in the Armenian church who live not among the people, but in convents; from the Armenian *vartabed*.

## TOURNAMENT OF THE MIND

Answers from page 1: A spittoon; the daffodil; Wordsworth; Greece; Kramer

**ALL BRUCKNER:** This concert is given over completely to Bruckner's 85-minute Symphony No 8, performed by the Philharmonic Orchestra under Giuseppe Sinopoli. Royal Festival Hall, Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

**ENGLISH EVENING:** The RPO is conducted by Vernon Handley in Walton's *Portsmouth Point* Overture, Vaughan Williams's *Partita for Double String Orchestra* and *The Lark Ascending* (Barry Griffiths, violin) and Elgar's "Enigma" Variations. Royal Festival Hall, Tues, 7.30pm.

**ST SAVIOUR'S:** Young conductor Susan Farrow directs the orchestra of St Saviour's in works by Boyce and Britten.

**ANOTHER ENGLISH EVENING:** First Vernon Handley conducts the RPO in Vaughan Williams's "London" Symphony, then the Brighton Festival Chorus, Pro Musica Chorus of London and Benjamin Luxon (baritone) are added for Walton's *Belshazzar's Feast*. Royal Festival Hall, Thurs 7.30pm.

**THE WINNER:** David Wehr, winner of the Paloma O'Shea Piano Competition, solos in Beethoven's "Emperor" Concerto with the LSO under Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos. First, though, come Richard Strauss's symphonic poem *Don Juan* and Schubert's "Unfinished" Symphony. Barbican Centre, Thurs, 7.45pm.

**STANISLAW/MSTISLAV:** Stanislaw Skrowaczewski conducts the Halle Orchestra in Beethoven's *Le Corsaire* Overture, Shostakovich's Symphony No 1 and Mstislav Rostropovich solos in Dvorak's Cello Concerto. Barbican Centre, Fri, 7.45pm.

## TELEVISION

**T. DAN SMITH:** The erstwhile "Mr Newcastle", who was brought down by the Poulson scandal, plays himself in a dramatized documentary about his career. Channel 4, Mon, 10.55pm-12.35am.

**UNREPORTED INCIDENT:** T. P. McKenna as a chat show host with an unconventional guest list in David Martin's drama in the Scottish-produced *Play on One* series. BBC1, Tues, 9.30-11pm.

**A VERY PECULIAR PRACTICE:** Peter Davison and the regulars return for a new series of Andrew Davies's sharp comedy about a university medical practice. BBC2, Wed, 9.25-10.20pm.

**CONSPIRACY: THE TRIAL OF THE CHICAGO EIGHT:** Reconstruction, based on the court transcripts, of the 1969 trial of anti-Vietnam war activists, including Yippie leaders Abbie Hoffman and Jerry Rubin. Channel 4, Thurs, 9.30-11.45pm.

**NAUM GABO (1890-1977):** A survey of sculptures and drawings by the innovative abstract artist who exploited new materials such as perspex and plastic. The Hatton Gallery, University of Newcastle (0632 329511). From today.

**INTRODUCING WITH PLEASURE:** Actress Greta Scacchi chose a Thérèse Outon in this collection of paintings and sculpture selected by 12 celebrities from the Arts Council collection. Durham (0365 42214). From today.

**MICHAEL BRENNAND-WOOD:** Recent pieces comprising three-dimensional objects which are intriguingly poised between painting and textile. Turnpike Gallery, Leigh (0942 679407). From today.

**BRITISH RELIEF WOODCARVING:** Works using this traditional medium by 18 contemporary artists including Lee Grandjean and Keir Smith. Drumcraton Art Centre, Wigan (0942 321840). From Mon.

**CRITICAL REALISM:** Paintings and sculptures by contemporary artists, including Gerald Scarfe and John Keane, who reflect upon the state of Britain in the Eighties.

**TOP OF THE POP-UPS:** An exhibition tracing the history of pop-up and movable books. Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood, London E2 (01-938 8349). From Wed.

## RADIO

**THE WOMAN-HATER:** John Shepherd and Roy Kinnear in the play by Beaumont and Fletcher, thought to be having its first production since the 17th century. Radio 3, Tues, 7.30-9.35pm.

**THE YEAR OF DREAMS:** In the final programme in the series on the upheavals of 1968, Jeff Nuttall reflects on his influential book of that year, *Bomb Culture*. Radio 4, Wed, 11.02-11.47am.



Woody Herman (above), who died in October, is remembered in a series of four programmes introduced by John Fordham. Herman began his career as a child singer in vaudeville and took up the saxophone at 11. He later became a clarinetist and led his own bands. His best known number, "At the Woodchopper's Ball", was first recorded in 1939 and sold more than a million copies. Radio 3, Friday, 6.30-7.00pm.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

**KARSH:** Retrospective of the elder statesman of portrait photography to coincide with his 80th birthday ranges from pop-ups and movable books. Barbican Art Gallery, Barbican, London EC2 (01-638 4141) from Thurs.

**SCOTLAND - 1938-1988:** First show in its permanent space for photography concentrates on recent acquisitions and includes work by Bert Hardy, Fay Godwin and Don McCullin. Scottish National Portrait Gallery, 1 Queen Street, Edinburgh (031 556 8921). Until April 26.

## ROCK

**CHRIS REA/BILL WYMAN'S ALL STARS/SURPRISE GUESTS:** The first fruits of Wyman's AIMS talent-spotting project, featuring the five best new bands culled from a nationwide sweep. Tonight, Royal Albert Hall, London SW7 (01-589 8212).

**THE POGUES:** Start of a triumphant post-"Fairytale Of New York" tour. Tues, De Montford Hall, Leicester (0533 544444); Wed, Forum, NEC, Birmingham (021 780 4133); Fri, Newcastle City Hall (091 261 2606).

**LYLE LOVETT:** The Texan out of Nashville country singer/guitarist accompanied by a select only. Tues and Wed, Acoustic Room, Mean Fiddler, London NW10 (01-961 5490).

## OPERA

**ROYAL OPERA HOUSE:** Yuri Lyubimov's outstanding production of *Jenůfa*, back in good shape with Ashley Putnam, Eva Randova and Arthur Davies as the new. Strevi, on Mon, Thurs at 7.30pm. A revival of *Un ballo in*

## Out of the shadows

Stephen Spender's gay, salad-days, novel is published on Monday, nearly 60 years after he first wrote it. *The Temple* (Faber, £10.95) is a transparently autobiographical roman à clef about a 20-year-old Oxford post-navigator called Paul (in the original manuscript "S") who goes to a holiday in Hamburg in the summer of 1929, that pivotal year of the *entre deux guerres*. He stays with the family of a young German called Ernst Stockmann. He goes on a walking tour along the Rhine with a friend called Joachim he has met in Hamburg. He responds enthusiastically to the Weimar world of the bronzed young Germans of his own generation—the Children of the Sun—their friendships, parties, sexuality, naturism, particularly their cult of the naked body, and their gauche hedonism that was about to vanish into the Nazis. Other sections are experimental. There are attempts at interior monologue, discovering the innermost thoughts of Ernst and Joachim. There is an account of Paul's trip with Ernst to a Baltic resort.

Young Spender found it impossible to invent fictitious characters for an autobiographical novel. So "Simon Wilmore" is a caricature of the youthful W.H. Auden, as is "William Bradshaw" the slightly less youthful Christopher Isherwood. Herbert List, who grew up to become a famous portrait of "Joachim Lenz". Spender has developed their characters according to the requirements of fiction and with the omniscience of hindsight.

Sixty years ago he showed the typescript to friends—Auden, Isherwood, William Plomer—regarding it as a dispatch from the front line in their joint war against censorship. His publisher, Geoffrey Faber, pointed out that there could be no question of publishing a novel which, besides being libellous, was pornographic as the law then stood.

Spender put the script away in his bottom drawer, and forgot about it. In 1962, during some financial crisis of the kind to which poets are liable, he sold some of the stuff in his bottom drawer to Texas University, that omnivorous maw of literary waste paper.



Salad memories: Stephen Spender and (below) the young Auden and Isherwood

The original book was set in the last golden year before the Thirties, when everything became political. Fascists against anti-Fascists. But with hindsight Spender has introduced some sense of the terrible events that were about to cast their shadow over his young German characters.

There is irony in the joy and liberation of Weimar Germany about to be stamped out by the jackboots of the Nazis, with their tyranny and rigid censorship. Spender has heightened the contrast between summer sunlight and the coming darkness by advancing the date of the second part of the novel to 1932. *The Temple* is a complex of memory, fiction, and hindsight. It is not a great novel, but a literary curiosity.

Philip Howard

## FILMS

**STAKEOUT (15):** Synthetic but spirited comedy-thriller with a dash of romance. Richard Dreyfuss and Emilio Estevez play wisecracking Seattle cops on a routine stakeout. Madeleine Stowe is the ex-con's girlfriend involved with Dreyfuss. John Badham directs. Warner West End (01-439 0791), Odeon Marble Arch (01-723 2011), from Friday.

**NEW SADLER'S WELLS OPERA:** Noël Coward's *Bitter Sweet*, with Valerie Masterson as Sarah on Wed, and Ann Mackay in the role on Thurs. Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, London WC2 (01-278 8916), 7.30pm.

**OPERA NORTH:** Now on tour with their *Merry Widow* (Kathryn Harries) on Mon and Wed with a calculatedly squalid *Carman* (Cynthia Buchanan) on Tues and Thurs; and not-to-be-missed performance of Wilfred Josephs's *Rebecca*, on Fri. All start at 7.15pm. Palace Theatre, Manchester (061 236 9922).

**CLARK TRACEY QUINTE:** The trumpet's all-star quintet, featuring Dave Holland and John Taylor, conclude their tour. Leeds Trades Club (0532 620629) tonight; Zeffirelli's, Ambleside (05394 35845) Fri, 100 Club, London W1 (01-636 0533); Mon; Leadmill Arts Centre, Sheffield (0742 754508), Tues.

**Orson Welles (above) as Harry Lime** in the 1949 thriller of post-war Vienna, *The Third Man*. It was written by Graham Greene and directed by Sir Carol Reed. Though Reed never again approached his 1946 peak, which also saw *Odd Man Out* and *The Fallen Idol*, he was a polished craftsman who, given strong material, could turn in memorable films. *The Third Man* launches a Reed season. BBC2, Tuesday, 9-10.40pm.

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Salad memories: Stephen Spender and (below) the young Auden and Isherwood



## BRIGHTON ROCK (1947):

Graham Greene again, adapting his famous pre-war novel for the Boulton Brothers, with Richard Attenborough as Pinkie, the boy gangster. BBC2, Fri, 11.55pm-1.30am.

## DANCE

**ROYAL BALLET:** Besides Sibley as Manon (see top of page), there are performances tonight and Tues of *Symphonic Variations* with *The Sons of Horus* and *Le Fin du jour*. Covent Garden (01-240 1066).

**SADLER'S WELLS BALLET:** *The Sleeping Beauty* is at the Empire, Liverpool (051 709 6699) today and at Theatre Royal, Plymouth, (0752 655555), Tues-Fri.

**NORTHERN BALLET:** *Alice in Wonderland* today at the Darlington Civic Theatre, (0325 486555) and *Swan Lake* Tues-Fri at Theatre Royal, York (0904 23568).

## WALKS

**THE CITY OF YORK:** meet today, Exhibition Square, York, 10.15am, free (also Sun).

**HIDDEN CURIOS:** meet today, St Paul's tube, 11am, £2.50.

**HAMPSTEAD VILLAGE AND THE HEATHS:** meet tomorrow, Hampstead tube 11am, £2.50 (also Feb 28).

**DISCOVERING LONDON - BLOOMSBURY:** meet Holborn tube, 11am, £2.25.

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## BOOKINGS

## FIRST CHANCE

**GARDEN CONCERTS:** Jeffrey Tate conducts Orchestra of Royal Opera House in programme of Schreker, Strauss and Elgar. March 25-26. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden; London WC2 (01-240 1066/1911).

**BIRMINGHAM'S FAIR LADY:** Revival of the 1979 London production of *My Fair Lady*, with Denis Quilley and Liz Robertson. April 12. Hippodrome, Hurst Street, Birmingham (021 622 7437).

## LAST CHANCE

**FRANZ MESSIAH-SCHMIDT:** Grimacing, grotesque heads by 18th-century sculptor. ICA, The Mall, London SW1 (01-930 0483). Ends tomorrow.

**ARTISTS USE PHOTOGRAPHY:** 24 German artists who incorporate photography in their work. Goethe Institut, 50 Princes Gate, London SW7 (01-581 3344). Ends today.

Theatre: Jeffrey Kingston; Films: Geoff Brown; Concerts: Max Harcourt; Opera: Hilary Finch; Rock: David Sinclair; Jazz: Clive Davis; Dance: John Percival; Galleries: David Lee; Walks and Talks: Graeme Cawley; Television and Radio: Peter Warrick; Photography: Mike Young; Bookings: Anne Whitehouse.

## REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

Continued from facing page

## SATURDAY

**BBC1:** 5.15pm Sports News; 5.30pm-5.45pm Invention; 5.45pm-6.00pm Scotland News; 6.00pm-6.15pm Scotland News; 6.15pm-6.30pm Scotland News; 6.30pm-6.45pm Scotland News; 6.45pm-7.00pm Scotland News; 7.00pm-7.15pm Scotland News; 7.15pm-7.30pm Scotland News; 7.30pm-7.45pm Scotland News; 7.45pm-8.00pm Scotland News; 8.00pm-8.15pm Scotland News; 8.15pm-8.30pm Scotland News; 8.30pm-8.45pm Scotland News; 8.45pm-9.00pm Scotland News; 9.00pm-9.15pm Scotland News; 9.15pm-9.30pm Scotland News; 9.30pm-9.45pm Scotland News; 9.45pm-10.00pm Scotland News; 10.00pm-10.15pm Scotland News; 10.15pm-10.30pm Scotland News; 10.30pm-10.45pm Scotland News; 10.45pm-11.00pm Scotland News; 11.00pm-11.15pm Scotland News; 11.15pm-11.30pm Scotland News; 11.30pm-11.45pm Scotland News; 11.45pm-12.00pm Scotland News; 12.00pm-12.15pm Scotland News; 12.15pm-12.30pm Scotland News; 12.30pm-12.45pm Scotland News; 12.45pm-1.00pm Scotland News; 1.00pm-1.15pm Scotland News; 1.15pm-1.30pm Scotland News; 1.30pm-1.45pm Scotland News; 1.45pm-2.00pm Scotland News; 2.00pm-2.15pm Scotland News; 2.15pm-2.30pm Scotland News; 2.30pm-2.45pm Scotland News; 2.45pm-3.00pm Scotland News; 3.00pm-3.15pm Scotland News; 3.15pm-3.30pm Scotland News; 3.30pm-3.45pm Scotland News; 3.45pm-4.00pm Scotland News;



## CHOICE

and the dialogue is of the conventional soap-opera type. In spite of the co-operation and technical input of the London Fire Brigade to ensure "maximum realism", few of the incidents depicted ring true and the private lives of the fire-fighters are set in a pretty, standard mould. There's a cat to be rescued, a road accident, a full-scale blaze and some domestic drama when charity funds go missing from the fire station. I'm really sorry, guv, no offence meant, but I won't be on watch tonight.

**Glen Murphy with the rescued cat whose nine lives are left intact in London's Burring on ITV, 9.20pm**

**Veteran poet George Barker is the subject of Sunday night edition of The South Bank Show, on ITV, 10.30**

## CHANNEL

and b/w). The penultimate programme in the series on the Indian cinema industry.

**10.00 The World This Week.** The effect of the world international crash on Asian nations; plus an analysis of the New Hampshire primary results.

**11.00 People Programme 11-30 The Walton's 12-30 APB** includes the Proclaimers and Avasar.

**1.30 Space in Space (b/w).** Episodes 3 of the 29-part vintage science fiction serial.

**2.30 The Far Perilions.** The third and final episode (7).

**4.25 World of Animation.**

**4.40 Gallery.** Art quiz. This week Maggi Hambling and Frank Whorford are joined by Lord Weymouth and Marina Vayzuy. The ticklers are Shan Tuckey and Ian McCaughren.

**5.10 News** summary and weather.

**5.15 The Business Programme** examines satellite television. Plus, the British Gas chairman Sir Denis Rooke talks about the company's future; and Sir William Rees-Mogg with an investment strategy which takes into account the world economic crash.

**6.00 Path of the Rain God.** The first of a four-part series on the wildlife and the people of the Caribbean Island of Belize (1). (Oracle)

**7.00 How Free to Speak? A debate on secrecy** chaired by Peter Sissons. Taking part are Duncan Campbell, Brian Wenhman, Lord Halsheim, Paul Soering and Max Hastings.

**8.30 The Stocks and Shares Show.**

**9.00 The Modern World: Ten Great Writers.** Part seven is about Virginia Woolf and her novel *Mrs Dalloway*.

**10.10 Film: Where the River Bends (1952)** starring James Stewart and Arthur Kennedy. Western adventure about a former Missouri raider who is hired in 1847 to lead pioneers through Oregon. Directed by Anthony Mann

**11.50 Film: Frida (1984)** starring Odette Medina. The story of the life and times of the Mexican painter and revolutionary Frida Kahlo. Directed by Paul Leduc. Ends at 1.55am.

\_\_\_\_\_

Quidmeyer, Lesley Garrett,  
 Jeanne Pland and  
 Roderick Kennedy  
**5.00** Piano recital: Murray  
 Perahia plays Mozart's  
 Fantasia in D, K. 369,  
 and the Sonata in D, K.  
 576. Also Schumann's  
 Fantasy Pieces Op 12, and  
 Beethoven's Sonata in E  
 flat Op 81a, and the A flat,  
 Op 110  
**6.39** Interpretations on  
 Record: Alan Blyth  
 compares recordings of  
 Wolf's Italian Songbook  
**7.30** Royal Liverpool  
 Philharmonic under Albert  
 Wynn-Aime...

1111

**9.05** Lindsay String Quartet:  
Anthony Gilbert's Quartet  
No. 2, Fowler's Quartet in  
G and Schubert's Death at  
the Maiden quartet

**10.45** Choral Evensong: a  
Manchester Cathedral  
recordings. The Organist  
is Gordon Stewart, and the  
organ voluntary is Bull's  
Selva Regina

**11.45** Stabat Mater: Taverner  
Consort perform the work  
Palestrina

**12.00** News bulletin 12.05  
Closedown

# Radio

**8.30** The Old School has (new) members! The Old Members meet pupils of Haslingden High School in Lancaster as they recall their school days and Sir Brian Boyson and two pupils who started there in 1919.

**9.00** The Cost of Discipleship: an extract from C. S. Lewis's treatise to influential Christians from around the world who reflect on their experience as they've sought to follow Christ. (1) Dr Jean Vanier.

**9.15** The Natural History Programme: With Pergus Keeling. 9.59 Weather.

**10.00** The Bulletin

**10.15** The Year of Dreams: A six part review of the year 1968 when the post-war generation challenged the powers and ideas of their elders. (5)

**11.00** In Committee: news from Parliament's select committees.

**11.30** Season of Faith: During Le Canon Frank Wright explores the theme of goodness (1) The Attraction of Goodness 12.00 News

**12.00** **FM** as ever except on 1.5.2000 when Programme News 1.55-2.20

**Options**

on Radio 3: 1215kHz/247mVHF-  
94m: VHF55.8; BBC Radio Lanc

TABLE 1. *Salmonella* serotypes and phage types isolated from the 1990-1991 and 1991-1992 seasons in the United States







Executive Editor  
David Brewerton

## STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share  
1382.6 (-6.8)FT-SE 100  
1729.8 (-6.3)Bargains  
26331 (23488)USM (Datastream)  
145.28 (+0.02)

## THE POUND

US dollar  
1.7510 (+0.0065)W German mark  
2.9863 (+0.0049)Trade-weighted  
74.3 (same)SelectTV  
losses  
trimmed

Further losses at SelectTV during the first half of the year, although halved to £73.318, have continued a six-year-old pattern at the ailing cable television operator.

The USM-quoted company, in which Mr Robert Maxwell, the publisher, has a 23 per cent interest, has already whittled down the £1.5 million cash it had in the bank five years ago to just £171,853. The shares shed another 1p to 18p yesterday, unimpressed by the reduced losses on turnover of £83,620.

SelectTV is still managing a loss-making pay television service in Luton, Bedfordshire, for Cablevision Bedfordshire, in which it has a 20.2 per cent stake.

## Suspension

The Canadian offshoot of Low & Bonar, the Scottish packaging, textiles and electronics group, halted trading in its shares on the Toronto Stock Exchange yesterday pending an announcement. About 35 to 40 per cent of sales and profits are generated through the Canadian company, Bonar Inc.

## Scheme cheer

The response to the Government's newly-launched Initiative Scheme has been "excellent" with about 70 firms a day applying for the consultancy services part-funded by the Department of Trade and Industry, Lord Young of Gifford told the Lords yesterday.

## SUMMARY

## STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	1989.22 (+2.81)
Tokyo	Nikkei Average	24773.41 (+98.05)
Hong Kong		Closed
Australia	ASX 200	229.0 (-1.5)
Sydney	ASX 200	1243.0 (-0.8)
Frankfurt		Closed
Commerzbank		1349.5 (-4.8)
Brussels		Closed
Genève		4510.7 (-40.8)
Paris	CAC	297.6 (+1.2)
Zurich	SIX	446.2 (-2.7)
London		
FT-30 Share		1382.6 (-6.8)
FT-100		1729.8 (-6.3)
FT Gold Mines		267.3 (-3.9)
FT Food Interest		95.38 (+0.20)
FT Govt Secs		99.50 (+0.74)
Recent Issues		Page 24
Closing prices		Page 27

## MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISSE:		
Provident	357 1/2p (+13p)	
SA Breweries	35 1/2p (+25p)	
Henderson Admin	57 1/2p (+25p)	
Wellcome	435p (+26p)	
VPI Group	333 1/2p (+22p)	
Honda	54 1/2p (+12p)	
Imperial Thomson	350p (+10p)	
H. Clarkson	155 1/2p (+10p)	
Martell	72p (+8p)	
Prior Martins	33p (+18p)	
UK Land	437 1/2p (+13p)	
Abelect	125p (+10p)	
Church	45p (+10p)	
Federated Housing	234 1/2p (+18p)	
FALLS:		
Alumina	260p (-85p)	
Birmid Quacast	359 1/2p (-19p)	
Lucas	210p (-15p)	
Yorkshire	210p (-15p)	
Merivale Moore	300p (-15p)	
Anglia Sec	402 1/2p (-10p)	
Closing prices		

## INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	9%
3-month interbank	9 1/4%
3-month eligible bills	9 1/4%
Building rate	
US Prime Rate	8 1/4%
Federal Funds	8 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills	5.68-5.67%
30-year bonds	10 1/2%-10 3/4%

## CURRENCIES

London	New York
£1.7510	\$1.7510
£1.7510	\$1.7510
£2.9863	\$2.9863
£2.9863	\$2.9863
£2.9863	\$2.9863
£2.9863	\$2.9863
£2.9863	\$2.9863
£2.9863	\$2.9863
£2.9863	\$2.9863
£2.9863	\$2.9863

## NORTH SEA OIL

Break (Mar.)	on \$15.50/bbl (\$15.50)
Derivatives latest trading price	
Breakdown	24
Stock Market	24
Foreign Exch	26
Wall Street	24
Unit Trusts	26
Traded Oils	24
Commodities	26
Financial	24
Share Prices	27

Panel rap for  
Blue Circle  
Share counting report  
ordered before ruling

By Our City Staff

The Takeover Panel has rapped Blue Circle and its advisers for the way they handled the final stages of the £275 million takeover bid for Birmid Quacast, the domestic appliance and lawnmower company.

The Panel described as "unsatisfactory" the circumstances surrounding Blue Circle's claim last Saturday that it had gained control of Birmid. It followed by yesterday's statement that the bid had lapsed.

It has called for reports on the apparent discrepancies in the counting of shares before deciding what further action may be needed.

But it was a gap in the Takeover Code which allowed Blue Circle Industries wrongly to claim victory in its hard-fought bid for Birmid Quacast.

This became apparent yesterday after Blue Circle's offer lapsed when it announced it controlled 49.5 per cent of Birmid and not the 50.01 per cent reported last Saturday.

Calls for a tightening of the code followed news that 338,181 shares submitted by Royal London Mutual, the

insurance company, had been inadvertently treated as valid acceptances.

Double-counting of 44,775 shares purchased by Blue Circle's broker, Hoare Govett, were also unearthed and this might have swung the bid in Blue Circle's favour.

Under the existing code, acceptances without full documentation are valid if matched by an entry on the share register. The register entry of 338,181 shares owned by Royal London Mutual, referred to a block of shares which were sold to Blue Circle at the end of January for 380p.

The shares submitted for acceptance by Royal London Mutual had been subsequently bought in the market for 370p. Royal London Mutual then aimed to make a 10p a share arbitrage profit by accepting Blue Circle's 380p offer.

The second batch of shares could not be certified as true purchases before the February 15 settlement day, so were not valid for acceptance at the February 13 closing date.

Had the bid not been so close, making a recount necessary, this loophole may

never have been discovered.

The closeness of this bid has brought this problem to light.

The Takeover Panel has already tightened up the rules on the validated acceptances. Until recently a contract note was treated as evidence of a genuine purchase. Now in cases of doubt, certification is needed from the Stock Exchange or from the registrars.

The Companies Act allows the bidder to work from a register no more than 10 days old. This case has highlighted that this is not accurate enough.

The unprecedentedly high proportion of purchases by Blue Circle is thought to have put pressure on Hoare Govett's checking systems. The use of regional brokers to buy stock from small shareholders also increased the broker's paperwork.

The Takeover Panel is thought to be considering introducing third party checking in bids, particularly when the result is very close.

Birmid shares, suspended while the mix up was being discovered, were requested yesterday at 346p, 34p below the Blue Circle offer.

Barker & Dobson is heavily  
defeated in Dee takeover bid

By Cliff Feltham

The audacious £2 billion takeover bid by the Barker & Dobson Group for the Dee Corporation, the Gateway supermarket chain, was convincingly defeated last night saving bankers the need for a recount.

When the offer closed, Barker & Dobson, the sweets and supermarkets group, could muster the support of just 23.4 per cent of shareholders in Dee to add to the handful of shares it owned before the offer was launched. As a result the bid was allowed to lapse.

Many experts had expected the battle to be much closer, but Mr John Fletcher, the chairman of Barker & Dobson, who had masterminded the David and Goliath battle said he was happy with the outcome.

"I am certainly not disappointed. Some people expected we would end up with a good deal less support than it turned out. In fact, in the last week or so some people had been writing us off completely.

"We always knew it would

be very difficult. Some of the institutions probably took a cautious view, perhaps because of the financing arrangements we were making for the bid, and also because, they might have expected us to raise our offer at some stage.

"But we always felt we were offering a fair price for Dee. We could have raised our bid. The bankers were there with the money. But we knew what the business was worth."



Happy loser: John Fletcher

Mr Alec Monk, the Dee chairman, who left the City as soon as the result became clear, said: "Now that Barker & Dobson's bid has lapsed we can all get back to the important task of running the business. Our first priority is obviously to release the full profit potential of Gateway and Herman's (the US business) for the benefit of our shareholders."

Last night Dee shares closed up 1p at 177p. The yawning gap which had existed between Dee's price and the estimated 219p value of the Barker & Dobson offer suggested that the City believed Dee would survive.

Mr David Verney of Lazard Brothers, which has been advising Dee Corporation, said: "It has been a very satisfactory victory for us."

He added that the margin was wide enough so that the other side could not complain they would have won had they managed to purchase the crucial 15 per cent of Dee Corporation owned by Associated British Foods.



Hope for future: Sir Peter Thompson and shareholder Emma (Photograph by John Rogers)

NFC listing plan faces cool  
reception from exchange

By Joe Joseph

Even if the employees who own the National Freight Consortium decide at their annual meeting tomorrow to seek a Stock Exchange listing, it is not certain the exchange will readily welcome its plans for a two-tier voting structure designed to keep power with its staff.

More than 4,000 of the employee shareholders in the successful transport and distribution group, which includes Pickfords among its interests, will gather in Blackpool's Winter Gardens tomorrow morning to vote on the future of the company they took off the Government's hands six years ago in Britain's biggest employee buyout.

Sir Peter Thompson, NFC's chairman, is confident that he will win approval for his board's plans to seek a listing by way of an introduction within two years - valuing NFC at between £500 million and £600 million - and to raise up to £100 million through a rights issue. November has already been earmarked for the flotation.

Sir Peter - whose six-month-old daughter Emma holds 1,000 shares which could be worth £1,700-plus if the company gets a public quote - wants to leave employees with the power to decide their own fate.

But NFC's chosen defence is a share structure that allows a weighted vote only to employee shareholders: if they sell their shares to a pension fund, those shares lose their extra voting muscle. The Stock Exchange's rules permit only preferential voting rights that are tied to shares rather than shareholders.

Two-tier voting rights are also unpopular with pension funds, who feel that a company wishing to safeguard its independence can do so by limiting the number of shares it offers to the public.

"We've talked to the Stock Exchange about it," Sir Peter said. "Their attitude is that we recognize NFC is a special case but we don't want to create a precedent." But we feel confident we will reach an accommodation with them."

Sir Peter has also discussed a possible flotation with pension funds. Institutions hold about 17 per cent of the stock.

Mr John McLachlan, chairman of the investment committee of the National Association of Pension Funds, says: "In principle we are not enthusiastic about two-tier capital structures. It's something we've got to look at if and when the shares are issued."

An open market for NFC's equity will make it easier for the 22,000 employees, members of their families and NFC pensioners who own a stake in the company, to capitalize on its dizzy success and tap the value of shares which currently change hands on an internal market at prices fixed once a quarter.

The value of those shares has swelled more than 40-fold since 1982, valuing the average stake of the group's 10,000 founder shareholders at about £33,000. More than 400 of the 29,100 employees own shares worth more than £250,000.

County  
holding  
in DTI  
check

By Lawrence Lever

The Department of Trade and Industry is examining the acquisition by County NatWest of a 9.5 per cent stake in Blue Arrow last September. The stake was acquired by County after the £377 million rights issue which it arranged for the recruitment consultancy group flopped.

County did not disclose the stake publicly at the time. The DTI is, therefore, considering whether the acquisition was within the terms of section 209 of the Companies Act 1985, which exempts market-makers from the normal requirement to disclose shareholdings of 5 per cent or more.

The DTI's interest appears to have been stimulated by information which it has received from a third party. It has not launched a formal investigation, nor has it sought documents from County NatWest.

County said that it had no knowledge of any inquiry by the DTI and added that "it is satisfied that its conduct during the whole transaction was entirely proper and complied in every way with the Regulations."

County split the Blue Arrow stake in two - putting 4.9 per cent in its investment bank and 4.6 per cent in its market-making subsidiary County NatWest Securities.

County claims that its conduct came within the terms of section 209 which allows non-disclosure by market-makers if they are holding a share stake for business purposes.

County says that it did have a practice of taking large stakes onto its books and selling them off subsequently. It hoped to make a profit on the Blue Arrow holding, but in the event it is currently sitting on a £47 million loss.

The 4.6 per cent taken by market-makers was actually entered in a special trading account to which all the equity traders would not have access.

County says that it restricted the number of people who knew of the stake because it was concerned that its rivals might get to know about it and exploit its position.

## Film purchase

Dominion International, the financial services and mineral resources group, is buying a 24 per cent stake in Film Finances, an insurance company specialising in the film sector.

## LME record

Aluminium prices rose nearly 2 per cent to £1,200 per tonne on the London Metals Exchange yesterday - the highest price by £15 since the contract was started in October 1978.

Pru-Bache closes  
gilts operation

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

The unprofitable gilt-edged market suffered its fourth casualty since Big Bang yesterday when the American-owned Pru-Bache announced its withdrawal from gilt-edged market-making.

This brings the list of primary dealers down to 23, although two Japanese firms have applied to join.

Pru-Bache said that trading income had not covered operating costs in 1987 but that losses had been minimal. It saw little chance of increasing business enough to show a satisfactory return on capital.

Market observers estimate that Pru-Bache had only about

1 per cent of business, making it one of the smallest firms.

The closure will affect only Prudential-Bache Capital Funding (Gilts) which employs about two dozen people, of whom six will have jobs elsewhere in the group.

Pru-Bache will continue to trade on its own account and as an agency broker through its subsidiary Clive Discount.

But the company said yesterday that its decision had no connection with Bank of England worries that some small dealers might be trading too much on their own account at the expense of their obligation to make continuous two-way markets in all stocks.

New charges may  
name UK directors

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Wall Street officials, noting the accelerated activity by the SEC in recent weeks, are expecting the US Government to file fresh indictments dealing charges against a number of individuals and several investment houses in the next few weeks.

Banking sources said that the information uncovered by the SEC was also likely to implicate leading British businessmen who were actively involved in certain share dealings. They noted that the co-operation between the SEC and DTI has already led to several investigations.

The US Securities and Ex-

change Commission has supplied information to the Department of Trade and Industry which implicates a well-known British businessman in a number of questionable stock transactions, according to banking sources.

Officials said that the SEC's continuing probe of market transactions related to its insider trading investigation and had traced a path to Britain. The roles of several businessmen in suspicious takeover transactions under investigation by the SEC were outlined by Wall Street officials, involved in plea bargaining negotiations with the US Government.

## Cash inflow at highest for a three-month period

## Societies overtake unit trusts

By Rodney Lord  
Economics Editor

The inflow of money into building societies continued at a high level last month though it was slightly lower than in the first two months after the stock market crash.

Net receipts by the societies totalled £890 million in January compared with £1.07 billion in December and £1.13 billion in November. Receipts have been at the highest level ever recorded for a three-month period.

Mr Mark Boleat, director-general of the Building Societies Association, said: "The increase in net receipts can largely be attributed to the effect of the stock market crash which has greatly diminished personal investment in unit trusts. Societies have now recovered virtually all of the business which they had lost to unit trusts for much of last year."

Yesterday the Unit Trust Association announced that net new investment in unit trusts during January fell to £136 million from £155 million the previous month. A year earlier it was £692 million and in September, in the last month

## NET RECEIPTS

	Building Societies (£m)	Unit Trusts (£m)
1987 Aug	667	689
Sep	197	1169
Oct	812	246
Nov	1126	-13
Dec	1069	155
1988 Jan	890	136

before the crash, it was £1.14 billion.

Buoyant inflows to the societies have occurred despite some decline in their competitiveness on rates. The average grossed-up cost of building society funds was fractionally less last month than the average local authority three-month deposit rate whereas it was slightly higher in previous months.

The flow of money into the societies has enabled them to maintain a relatively high rate of lending. In the seasonally quiet month of January the societies undertook net new commitments of £2.88 billion compared with £1.9 billion in the previous month and £1.95 billion in January last year.

Advances totalled £2.76 billion against £3.22 billion in December and £2.18 billion a year ago.

According to the Association, building societies' share of the mortgage market is now recovering. This is partly because the cost of wholesale funds, on which competing institutions rely, has risen relative to the cost of retail funds.

The underlying rate of inflation in house prices is estimated at about 16 per cent, though the average price of houses newly mortgaged to societies rose last month from 21.4 per cent to 22.8 per cent largely because of an increase in the number of higher priced properties on which the societies have lent money.

Falling unemployment and fewer 100 per cent advances have helped to arrest the trend towards arrears on mortgage payments. In the second half of last year the number of building society borrowers who were more than six months in arrears on their mortgage payments fell to 60,400 from 62,560 in the first half of the year. The number of properties repossessed also fell from 11,540 to 11,090.

## MERCURY UNIT TRUSTS

-AN INVESTOR'S  
GUIDE

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Address

Postcode

NO SALESMAN WILL CALL

MERCURY

MERCURY FUND MANAGERS







## Tonks raises offer after Hepworth bid to grab Henderson

By Cliff Feltham

The fate of the Henderson Group, the manufacturer of garage doors, was still hanging in the balance last night after Newman Tonks made a final offer of £78.6 million for the business.

This was £1.1 million more than its original bid, which had been narrowly piped in a sudden move by Hepworth Ceramic. Last night Mr Seymour Thomson, chief executive of Hepworth Ceramic, said: "It is all down to us now. We'll spend the weekend making up our minds what to do next. One of our options is to consider introducing a share alternative to our cash terms."

Newman Tonks finely tuned its original offer to introduce a greater share content. Mr Doug Rogers, chief executive, said the revised terms would save £800,000 in capital duty so the extra cost of the bid was just £300,000.

Newman Tonks is now offering 68 of its own shares and 160p cash for 36 Henderson shares, valuing them at 348p. This compares with the 345p all-cash offer by Hepworth Ceramic.

Henderson shares rose 4p to 359p in anticipation of Hepworth Ceramic bouncing back with a knockout offer.

Henderson is once again backing the bid. So too is Throgmorton Trust which has an 18 per cent stake. "The directors of Henderson and Newman Tonks believe it is important that the period of uncertainty regarding Henderson's future, which is unsettling to management and employees and which undermines the opportunities now available to the group, be brought to an end. Newman Tonks has accordingly declared the revised offer to be final," the two sides said.

Mr Rogers added: "We believe that institutions are keen to take shares in a combined business. Cash is not king. There are a lot of family in Henderson who want a continuing stake in the business."

The battle is evenly pitched, with Hepworth owning a 23 per cent stake acquired from Evered Holdings. Mr Thomson said: "This all seems much ado about nothing. There is just loose change involved now. I cannot believe any responsible investor is going to be swayed for or against by the new offer. Newman has upped the share element by next to nothing. We are not precluded from making a share alternative and can now do so whenever we like. I honestly doubt if we need to raise our offer but with their offer now final some of the urgency has gone out of the situation."

## CBI to oppose higher fuel bills

By David Young  
Energy Correspondent

The full council of the Confederation of British Industry is expected to confirm shortly its outright opposition to proposals from the Government to increase electricity charges in the run-up to the privatization of the industry.

The council, which is due to meet on Wednesday, will have a detailed report on energy prices to consider, which was commissioned after it met Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Secretary of State for Energy, last November to discuss the proposed price rises.

The employers' organization has estimated that £1 billion would be added to industry's fuel bills if the rises go through.

It has argued that the price rise is unnecessary and is being pushed through at a time when companies need every penny available to invest in new plant and equipment to improve long-term prospects.

The CBI is likely to use the report and the outcome of Wednesday's meeting to press Mr Parkinson for a further meeting.

However, the CBI's action may have come too late. The area electricity boards have already discussed the rises they are planning over the next two years to meet financial targets set by the Government. They are due to go into operation from April 1.

The area boards have defended their decision to increase prices by saying that they have to do so to meet the targets imposed by the Chancellor in his autumn financial statement.

However, many senior managers in the industry agree privately with views put forward by the CBI and consumers' organizations that the price rises are purely to "fatten up" the power industry for privatization.

The Government has justified the new financial targets by saying that the power industry needs funds to build power stations and install transmission equipment to meet the surge in demand which is predicted in the next decade.

However, critics of the proposed increases say that the industry is virtually debt-free and if it used the same accounting system as private industry, it would show a rate of return high enough to provide funds for new investment as well as profits high enough to attract private capital into the industry during privatization.

Large industrial users already argue that they pay more for their power than their main foreign competitors — which is disputed by the Electricity Council and by Mr Parkinson — and that British products are often at a serious price disadvantage in export markets because of high energy input costs.

## After the bang and the crash a wallop was inevitable



KENNETH FLEET

The stock market crash has hurt pockets and hurt feelings. Stockbrokers' private clients may have overlooked a poor and expensive service when share prices were rising but now they see it as ineptitude too frequently coloured by indifference and even arrogance. Industrialists are still baffled by the speed and severity of the fall and are concerned about raising fresh equity capital when sentiment is bearish. They are critical of the securities business. They accuse the City of double standards, claiming it refuses to judge itself by performance criteria it applies to companies in other industries.

They question whether the securities houses yet see themselves as part of an industry which needs to be managed in the way the best commercial and industrial organizations outside the City are managed. There is something in this, though you cannot change a cottage industry into a Boeing, IBM or even ICI overnight. Few in the City, I believe, would dispute that the Stock Exchange and the banks, now the main driving force in the securities business, have shown a remarkable lack of foresight in creating an overinflated industry. Staffing was wrong, pay structures not thought through, property and office needs misjudged, and bad "marriages" made.

Yet even in the euphoria of Big Bang, in October 1986, it was not too difficult to see a day of reckoning. Four weeks before that explosive day, I wrote in

The Times: "It would require a huge increase in the volume of business taking place in London to employ gainfully all the manpower girding its loins to job in equities after Big Bang. As in the days of music hall, the bang promises to be followed by a crash and a wallop."

What nobody, to my knowledge, foresaw was the strength and staying power of the great bull market which, like the effect of Keats's autumn on the bees, persuaded investors and dealers alike that "warm days will never cease, for summer has o'er-brimmed their clammy cells".

Perceptively, the chairman of The International Stock Exchange, Sir Nicholas Goodison, has suggested that we might learn as much if not more from studying the great bull run as from investigating the October crash. The great flood tide of Stock Exchange business has receded to almost half its peak 1987 level. It has left behind depleted commissions, narrower dealing margins (in bonds if not in equities), swollen overheads, too many highly remunerated people, and a painful awareness that the securities business is still cyclical.

It is a classic industrial situation, made more difficult by the magnitude of past misjudgements. There is a parallel adjustment under way in the clearing bank system, independent of but also touching the securities industry. With the possible exception of Lloyds (which went in small and withdrew fast), the clearing banks showed their fallibility in setting up and managing securities businesses. BZW, County NatWest and Midland Montagu have made considerable losses in proving that the cultures of clearing and investment banking do not mix easily. Losses here, however, pale alongside provisions against Third World loans that have gone bad.

Midland's £505 million loss for 1987, unveiled on Thursday, is the culmination of a horror story of mismanagement, notably in the purchase and sale of Crocker National Bank. Lloyds' losses next week will signal the final retreat from all but a modest presence in international banking. Both are led by former central bankers. Sir Kit McMahon and Sir Jeremy Morse, whereas Barclays, also intent on cultivating its home patch, clings to family tradition. NatWest is in front, with fewest mistakes. With the stock market in a deflated and desultory mood, the axes are out, as they were for manufacturing industry in the early Thatcher years. After securities and banking, it will be the turn of the insurance industry.

## The need at Plessey now is jam today

Sir John Clark has again demonstrated his skill in dispensing jam tomorrow. Plessey's thinner third-quarter taxable profits (£37.1 million against £45.1 million) were covered with the promise, which will certainly be fulfilled, of "a strong fourth-quarter performance across all businesses".

Although the shares did move up a few pence, the executive chairman of Plessey knows that the time for honeyed words has run out. The shares have not performed well, profits are on a plateau, and expectations, inflated as part of the defence against GEC's bid in 1986, hang like an albatross around Plessey's neck.

The cynical, the disenchanted and the bored look to another bid to justify a price/earnings ratio of 11. For a man whose credibility is on the line Sir John is in good humour — a sign perhaps that he has another important deal up his sleeve. He is, of course, master in his own house although one or two of Plessey's non-executive directors are ready to raise more than an eyebrow if the Clark strategy starts to fail.

In essence this is to develop organi-

cally and through joint ventures and acquisitions the three core businesses — defence, components and telecommunications. At the same time Plessey has been its image as a high-tech company, with a renewed commitment to active management.

Both strategy and image will again come under scrutiny early next month when the Class 1 Circular relating to the merger of Plessey and GEC telecommunications is issued. I understand it has been delayed because of Plessey's initial unwillingness to include an audited profits forecast.

The circular will shatter illusions that have been fostered about the early benefits of putting the System X businesses into one group. It will take at least a year of radical reorganization before the joint venture begins to show the results both companies are looking for.

Sir John Clark's other immediate problem, though he may not agree, is the perception of Plessey management as able but insufficient and too reverential. His decision to make Sir James Blyth the managing director was

undone in less than a year when Blyth abruptly left.

He was not the first senior executive to leave the Plessey fold nor indeed the last: Mr David Dey, the telecoms main board director, went recently. But he has brought in Mr Stephen Walls, an accountant able to think strategically, as finance director. He will have to do more if the Clark management style does prove a barrier between Plessey and other companies keen to develop joint business interests, especially outside this country.

On the credit side Plessey-GEC industrial relationships are good. Plessey's initiative in acquiring Ferranti's semi-conductor business is being supported by GEC putting as many of its component orders as it decently can with Plessey. Lord Weinstock still believes that a full merger between GEC and Plessey made sense in the context of international competition.

Whether the Monopolies Commission's Ministry of Defence-assisted ruling against GEC would hold if, say, STC bid for Plessey, is an interesting question.

## Mountleigh and Heritage join in leisure developments

By Our City Staff

Mr Tony Clegg's Mountleigh Group, the fast-growing property company, has linked with Heritage Projects to carry out development plans with the emphasis on heritage, tourism, cultural and leisure potential.

Mr Clegg said last night: "Mountleigh will be bringing its property and financing expertise to the venture. Our partners in Heritage Projects will contribute their specialist skills in creating authentic cultural heritage developments with a proven ability to attract and entertain large numbers of people."

He added: "We have already identified several sites on which our joint teams are working. We hope to bring some new and exciting projects to some inner city areas."

Heritage Projects has been responsible, together with the York Archaeological Trust, for the development of the Jorvik Viking Centre in York. The company, which is based in York and run by Mr Ian Skipper, will open new heritage centres in Canterbury and Oxford next month.



Mr Tony Clegg: Several sites already identified

## 'Brief gap' in investor protection

By Colin Narborough

Mr Francis Maude, Minister for Corporate Affairs, has admitted investor protection might be incomplete for a brief period this year but would remain "significant".

His response to concerns voiced by Lord Elton, chairman of the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and

Brokers Regulatory Association, came after the Government confirmed investment businesses must apply for formal authorization by the end of next week. From April it will be a criminal offence to conduct investment business unauthorized. Until vetted by regulatory bodies, businesses will receive interim

authorization. Mr Maude accepted investor protection immediately after the April deadline will be "less than complete" but said the authorization requirement should discourage some doubtful businesses. Rule breaches applied to people with either interim or full authorization.

### TEMPUS

## Never mind the ICI figures just watch its predictions

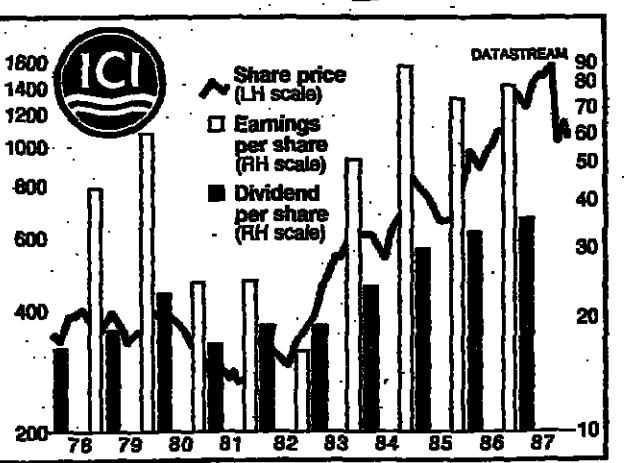
ICI kicks off the 1987 industrial company results season next week and the event is more significant for market sentiment than usual. Since the trauma of the October crash, investors have been anxiously awaiting the appearance of signposts through a minefield of uncertainty.

Judging by the pitifully low level of activity in the stock market and the comatose response to important economic data, there appears to be an epidemic of future phobia in the City. ICI and all the big companies which follow will be scrutinized on two levels, what they report and what they predict.

The figures, since they relate to the balmy days of last year, will be almost taken as read. With ICI, analysts' expectations are bunched around £1.3 billion for 1987. The fourth-quarter figures will be notable only for a slight departure from the normal seasonal pattern which tends to show a recovery from a depressed third quarter. Damp farming weather and cut-throat competition have done nothing for ICI's fertilizer division in the final quarter of 1987.

An advance of close on 30 per cent for the full year would normally be a reason for celebration. But this year there is the future-phobia factor.

Despite expectations of a further advance this year to about £1,450 million before tax, the shares are languishing on a 30 per cent discount to the market on an earnings multiple of only 8.5. The re-rating of the stock in the light of its improving portfolio of activities in agricultural and pharmaceuticals and its withdrawal from commodity chemicals, has been reversed. On good days, before the crash, ICI shares traded in line



with average market multiples. The new de-rating of ICI is an expression of doubt that the group can come through a period of slower economic growth in its main markets without a big profits setback.

Analysts say it can, the market price indicates the opposite. The result looks like a good buying opportunity for those who believe the future is not all that bleak. Words to that effect from ICI would benefit not only ICI's shares, but the market as a whole.

### Charterhall

Russell Goward, the Australian entrepreneur behind the transformation of North Sea oil minnow Charterhall into an aggressive investment vehicle, evidently sees himself as a one-man rationalization programme with an eye on a string of sleepy British industries.

This week Charterhall unveiled profits of just under £4 million for the half-year to end-December, largely derived from timely disposals of shareholdings, and disclosed plans to raise £10 million from shareholders via a one-for-two rights issue.

The funds will be used, with the £12.5 million already obtained from North Sea disposals and the £6 million it expects from the sale of what is left, to clear the £20 million overdraft run up by last November's acquisition of Allebone, trading as the Tandem shoe shop chain.

Allebone was Charterhall's first quoted company purchase under Goward, but will surely not be the last, with the chairman identifying security, commercial printing and office stationery as other areas ripe for revamping.

Charterhall's nature suggests an erratic course for profits in the nearer term and that is recognized by the 31p share price. But Goward is establishing a half-decent record and the shares have potential — but only for those with strong nerves.

### Boots

Six weeks are all that remain of Boots' year but suddenly the market is getting cold feet. Like other big High Street retailers — both Marks and Spencer and Storehouse have had forecasts downgraded in the past few days — Boots had

a disappointing Christmas, and, this together with growing worries about its dollar exposure, is expected to dent expectations sufficiently to deny the group any earnings growth this year.

Significantly, Warburg Securities, the company's broker, was among those trimming its estimates yesterday, slashing £19 million off its pretax projection of £236 million. Phillips & Drew, which was going for £262 million, has evidently picked up similar vibes.

Boots' staff have already read about its less-than-merry Christmas in the house magazine, but additionally there has been a notable downturn in trading since the New Year, with the suggestion that margins are being sacrificed.

Meanwhile the overseas retail division is thought to be in the red in the second half. P&D's Robert Cumming estimates losses of between £2 and £3 million.

On the industrial side, profits from the anti-rheumatic drug Ibuprofen are now beginning to atrophy following the expiry of the American patents two years ago. Competition is said to be fierce.

It is now hard to find a Boots follower prepared to believe that earnings for the current year will top last year's 17p, indicating a 12.2 prospective multiple. Next year is expected to produce near 19p from profits of maybe £265 million.

An off-colour Boots performance is bound to revive talk of a bid. P&D put a break-up value of 265p on the shares. But is there a retailer in Britain prepared to pay a fat premium for 5 million square feet of reasonably profitable space? And, if there is not, are the shares worth the 207p they were fetching yesterday?

## Smarter than the average bear.

So the Stockmarket gave you a bit of a hammering in October. And it hurts. But that's no reason to go to ground.

Bury your money under the floorboards, and all you'll get is mouldy money. There's no question — you

Even at the bottom of the market, some people were making money. Not many, and maybe not much. But opportunities are there, if you know where to look. And even if you're

At a time like this, you've got to be ahead of the game like never before.

Smarter than the average bear.

It must make sense to keep in touch. Stay in the picture.

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could do better.

On some fronts at least things are beginning to calm down. Less excitement perhaps, but that could be a good thing!

not going to risk a slice of your capital right now, there's still the need to be well-informed. Without the right information, how will you be able to time your comeback right?

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## INVESTORS CHRONICLE

The ins and outs of the ups and downs



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## FOREIGN EXCHANGE

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES				
Market rates for September 22				
Range	Close	1 month	3 month	
New Yrk.	1.7395-1.7517	1.7307-1.7517	0.50-0.52	1.04-0.99
London	11.2151-11.2358	1.2234-1.2358	1.19-1.07	0.44-0.71
Amst'dm	3.4544-3.5554	3.5517-3.5554	11-12	56-57
Brussels	42.22-42.82	42.46-42.82	52-55	56-57
Frankf.	11.2151-11.2358	1.2234-1.2358	11-12	56-57
Dublin	1.1195-1.1230	1.1205-1.1215	10-12	20-14
Frankf.	2.9808-2.9879	2.9844-2.9879	51-52	43-39
Madrid	20.220-20.77	20.202-20.51	30-35	51-52
Milan	2184.03-2230.63	2197.57-2230.63	51-52	1-11
Paris	11.2151-11.2358	1.2234-1.2358	11-12	56-57
Stockhlm	10.0700-10.1072	10.0910-10.1072	11-12	4-2
Switzerland	2.4237-2.4446	2.4237-2.4446	51-52	39-13
Vienna	20.51-20.57	20.54-20.57	51-52	28-24
Zurich	2.4237-2.4446	2.4237-2.4446	51-52	43-39

Premium = pr. Discount = disc.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES	
Belgium	1.5800-1.5916
Denmark	2.0148-2.0210
France	2.5850-2.5970
Germany	1.3908-1.3917
Italy	6.4500-6.4700
Japan	6.0500-6.0710
Norway	4.8300-4.8320
Sweden	1.5800-1.5916
Switzerland	2.0148-2.0210
United Kingdom	1.3908-1.3917
United States	1.0000-1.0000
West Germany	2.5850-2.5970
Yugoslavia	1.5800-1.5916

OTHER STERLING RATES	
Argentina dollar	9.9516-10.0460
Australia dollar	2.4325-2.4357
Bahian dollar	0.0050-0.0050
Brazil cruzeiro	161.445-161.137
Ceylon rupee	0.7820-0.7820
Dolland mark	7.2075-7.2075
East German mark	3.3232-3.3232
East Indian rupee	13.616-13.625
East Pakistani rupee	22.55-28.58
Kuwait dinar	0.4375-0.4375
Malaysian dollar	4.5211-4.5273
Maltese dollar	3.510-4.010
New Pakistan dollar	121-142
Portuguese escudo	200-200
Saudi Arabian riyal	6.2500-6.2500
Singapore dollar	3.3232-3.3232
Sri Lanka rupee	1.0000-1.0000
S. African rand (fin)	3.4858-5.0071
Taiwan dollar (C)	3.8227-3.8334
U.S. dollar	0.8725-0.8725

\*Liquidity Rate. Rate of interest on dollar deposits held by Bank of England and Barclays Bank HOEX.

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France	2.5850-2.5970
Germany	1.3908-1.39

**Dollar CDs (%)**  
1 mth: 6.75-6.70

Overnight High: 9 Low 8% Weak Exact: 8% 12 mt: 7.20-7.15

**TREASURY BILLS (Percent %)**

1 mth: 5 1/8%	2 mth: 5 1/4%	3 mth: 5 1/4%	6 mth: 5 1/4%	9 mth: 5 1/4%	12 mth: 5 1/4%
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**Prime Bank Bills (Percent %)**

1 mth: 5 1/8%	2 mth: 5 1/4%	3 mth: 5 1/4%	6 mth: 5 1/4%	9 mth: 5 1/4%	12 mth: 5 1/4%
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**Trade bills (Percent %)**

1 mth: 5 1/8%	2 mth: 5 1/4%	3 mth: 5 1/4%	6 mth: 5 1/4%	9 mth: 5 1/4%	12 mth: 5 1/4%
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**Interbank (%): Overnight: open 8% close 8 1/4% 9 mth: 5 1/4% 12 mth: 5 1/4%**

**Local Authority Deposits (%)**

2 day: 6% 7 day: 6% 1 mth: 6% 3 mth: 6% 6 mth: 6% 12 mth: 6%
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**Local Authority Bills (%)**

1 mth: 5 1/8% 2 mth: 5 1/4% 3 mth: 5 1/4% 6 mth: 5 1/4% 9 mth: 5 1/4% 12 mth: 5 1/4%
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**Local Authority CDs (%)**

1 mth: 5 1/8% 2 mth: 5 1/4% 3 mth: 5 1/4% 6 mth: 5 1/4% 9 mth: 5 1/4% 12 mth: 5 1/4%
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**EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %**

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth
Dollar	6%-%	6%-%	6%-%	6%-%
CDs: 5%-%				
Deutschmark:	5 1/2-%	5 1/2-%	5 1/2-%	5 1/2-%
CDs: 5%-%				
French Franc:	7 1/2-%	7 1/2-%	7 1/2-%	7 1/2-%
CDs: 7%-%				
Swiss Franc:	7 1/2-%	7 1/2-%	7 1/2-%	7 1/2-%
CDs: 7%-%				
Yen:	4 3/4%	4 3/4%	4 3/4%	4 3/4%
CDs: 4 1/2-%				

**TREASURY BILLS**

Apples: \$340M	almonds: \$100M
Orts: \$37.700M	walnuts: \$5%L
Walnuts: \$37.800M	cashews: 35%L
Almonds: \$37.800M	cashews: 35%L
Average rate: \$3.2222%	cashews: 35%L

**GOLD**

COMMODITY FUTURES											
	Open	High	Low	Close	Vol		Open	High	Low	Close	Vol
Three Month Eurodollar											
Jan 86	90.12	90.12	90.08	90.08	36255	US Treasury Bond	92.18	92.18	92.00	92.00	3222
Feb 86	90.12	90.12	90.08	90.08	36255	Jun 86	92.18	92.18	92.00	92.00	3222
Mar 86	90.12	90.12	90.08	90.08	36255	Oct 86	92.18	92.18	92.00	92.00	3222
Apr 86	90.12	90.12	90.08	90.08	36255	Dec 86	92.18	92.18	92.00	92.00	3222
May 86	90.12	90.12	90.08	90.08	36255	Jan 87	92.18	92.18	92.00	92.00	3222
Jun 86	90.12	90.12	90.08	90.08	36255	Mar 87	92.18	92.18	92.00	92.00	3222
Three Month Eurodollar											
Jan 86	90.12	90.12	90.08	90.08	36255	US Treasury Bond	92.18	92.18	92.00	92.00	3222
Feb 86	90.12	90.12	90.08	90.08	36255	Jun 86	92.18	92.18	92.00	92.00	3222
Mar 86	90.12	90.12	90.08	90.08	36255	Oct 86	92.18	92.18	92.00	92.00	3222
Apr 86	90.12	90.12	90.08	90.08	36255	Dec 86	92.18	92.18	92.00	92.00	3222
May 86	90.12	90.12	90.08	90.08	36255	Jan 87	92.18	92.18	92.00	92.00	3222
Jun 86	90.12	90.12	90.08	90.08	36255	Mar 87	92.18	92.18	92.00	92.00	3222
COMMODITIES											
LONDON FOX											
COCOA	G W Jayneson	Dec 7	154-175			(Futures)	Cash	3 months	Vol	Tone	
May 1997-002	Mar 1158-390					Copper class 1	1354-100.00	1275-100.00	259100	Easy	
Jul 1009-208	May 1180-178					Copper class 2	1300.00-130.00	1215-120.00		Steady	
Oct 1039-105	Jul 1260-105					Steel	368.00-368.00	340.00-341.50	28350	Steady	
COFFE	G W Jayneson	May 1280-285				Zinc H Gals	502.00-502.25	507.00-508.00	28500	Steady	
Mar 1280-285	Jan 1280-357					Aluminum	632.00-632.00	642.00-645.00		Quiet	
Jul 1260-298	Mar 1260-377					Nickel	632.00-632.00	642.00-645.00		Quiet	
Oct 1260-310	May 1260-377						1241.5-1242.5	1184.0-1185.0	183925	Easy	
SUGAR	C Czarnikow	Feb 3684					2150.0-2210.0	2070.0-2075.0	16575	Steady	
FCB	Dec 128-477						5000-5000	4150-4155	4476	Steady	
May 191-641.5	Oct 194-18.0					↑ (Cents per Troy oz. * (\$ per tonne))					
Nov 191-641.5	Dec 184.0-59.0					LONDON METAL EXCHANGE					
Feb 184.0-52.0	Mar 185.5-60.0					Official prices/volume previous day					
LONDON WHEAT											
WHEAT class 6/0	Vol 381					MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMODITIES					
Mar 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				FUTURES (Fig)					
May 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				As per table prices at representative					
Jul 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				markets on February 17					
Oct 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Line Pig Contract					
Dec 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Mfrs.					
Feb 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Open					
May 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Close					
Jul 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				(Fig)					
Oct 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Feb					
Dec 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Mar					
Feb 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Apr					
May 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				May					
Jul 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Jun					
Oct 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Jul					
Dec 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Aug					
Feb 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Sep					
May 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Oct					
Jul 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Nov					
Oct 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Dec					
Dec 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Jan					
Feb 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Feb					
May 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Mar					
Jul 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Apr					
Oct 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				May					
Dec 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Jun					
Feb 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Jul					
May 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Aug					
Jul 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Sep					
Oct 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Oct					
Dec 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Nov					
Feb 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Dec					
May 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Jan					
Jul 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Feb					
Oct 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Mar					
Dec 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Apr					
Feb 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				May					
May 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Jun					
Jul 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Jul					
Oct 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Aug					
Dec 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Sep					
Feb 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Oct					
May 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Nov					
Jul 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Dec					
Oct 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Jan					
Dec 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Feb					
Feb 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Mar					
May 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Apr					
Jul 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				May					
Oct 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Jun					
Dec 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Jul					
Feb 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Aug					
May 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Sep					
Jul 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Oct					
Oct 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Nov					
Dec 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Dec					
Feb 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Jan					
May 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Feb					
Jul 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Mar					
Oct 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Apr					
Dec 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				May					
Feb 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Jun					
May 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Jul					
Jul 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Aug					
Oct 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Sep					
Dec 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Oct					
Feb 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Nov					
May 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Dec					
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May 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Mar					
Jul 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Apr					
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May 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Mar					
Jul 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Apr					
Oct 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				May					
Dec 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Jun					
Feb 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Jul					
May 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90				Aug					
Jul 103.80	Vol 103.50	Jan 104.90									

صلى الله عليه وسلم



STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

# Account ends on drab note

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began February 8. Dealings ended yesterday. Settlement day February 22. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (as) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 24)

**Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator**

From your Portfolio gold card check your share price movements on this page only. Add these prices to your running total for the week and check this against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches or exceeds the figure, you have won outright or a share of the total weekly or accumulator prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Code	Price	Change	Div	Yield	P/E
1	Sunrise	Clothes	Draperies	100	10	10	10	10
2	Graham (as)	Breweries		100	10	10	10	10
3	Forrester	Chemicals	Plas	100	10	10	10	10
4	Magnet (as)	Building	Roads	100	10	10	10	10
5	Postlethwaite	Industries	L-R	100	10	10	10	10
6	Barlow	Road	Industries	A-D	100	10	10	10
7	BET Ord (as)	Industries	A-D	100	10	10	10	10
8	RIM (as)	Foods		100	10	10	10	10
9	Smiths	PLC	Building	Roads	100	10	10	10
10	Smiths	Industries	S-Z	100	10	10	10	10
11	Kerridge (as)	Industries	S-Z	100	10	10	10	10
12	YRM	Building	Roads	100	10	10	10	10
13	TI	Industries	S-Z	100	10	10	10	10
14	Renton (as)	Industries	L-R	100	10	10	10	10
15	Irish Dist	Breweries		100	10	10	10	10
16	Unilever	Electricals		100	10	10	10	10
17	Lawrence (Walter)	Building	Roads	100	10	10	10	10
18	Repsol	Industries	A-D	100	10	10	10	10
19	Clarendon Eng	Industries	A-D	100	10	10	10	10
20	Appleton Hdg	Foods		100	10	10	10	10
21	Wid Co	Industries	A-D	100	10	10	10	10
22	Wid Co	Industries	S-Z	100	10	10	10	10
23	Stantec	Industries	S-Z	100	10	10	10	10
24	Nordia & Peacock	Foods		100	10	10	10	10
25	Cowan De Groot	Industries	A-D	100	10	10	10	10
26	Wolfsheim Rink	Chemicals	Plas	100	10	10	10	10
27	Trent	Building	Roads	100	10	10	10	10
28	Security Serv	Industries	S-Z	100	10	10	10	10
29	Edison	Industries	L-R	100	10	10	10	10
30	Flintshire King	Property		100	10	10	10	10
31	Glenview	Property		100	10	10	10	10
32	Rockwell	Industries	L-R	100	10	10	10	10
33	Metal Chemicals	Industries	L-R	100	10	10	10	10
34	Under Walker	Paper/Print	Adv	100	10	10	10	10
35	Flintshire	Industries	S-Z	100	10	10	10	10
36	Telephone Rentals	Electricals		100	10	10	10	10
37	Whitman Rowe	Industries	S-Z	100	10	10	10	10
38	Rolls-Royce (as)	Motor/Aircraft		100	10	10	10	10
39	Allied Lon	Property		100	10	10	10	10
40	Rank Org (as)	Industries	L-R	100	10	10	10	10
41	Perry Gp	Motor/Aircraft		100	10	10	10	10
42	Westworth (as)	Draperies	Stores	100	10	10	10	10
43	Berkeley Gp	Building	Roads	100	10	10	10	10
44	Highland Dist	Breweries		100	10	10	10	10

Please take into account any minus signs

**Weekly Dividend**

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £3,000 in today's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

**BRITISH FUNDS**

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

**SHORTS (Under Five Years)**

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

**FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS**

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

**OVER FIFTEEN YEARS**

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

**UNDATED**

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

**INDEX-LINKED**

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

**BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP**

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

**BREWERS**

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

**BUILDING, ROADS**

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

**CHEMICALS, PLASTICS**

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

**CINEMAS, TV**

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

**DRAPERY, STORES**

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

**HOTELS, CATERERS**

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

**INDUSTRIALS A-D**

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

**ELECTRICALS**

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

**FINANCE, LAND**

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

**FINANCIAL TRUSTS**

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

**FOODS**

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

**L-R**

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

**S-Z**

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

**INSURANCE**

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

**LEISURE**

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

**MINING**

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

**MOTORS, AIRCRAFT**

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

**NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS**

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

**OILS, GAS**

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

**OVERSEAS TRADERS**

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

**PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING**

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

**PROPERTY**

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

**SHIPPING**

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

**SHOES, LEATHER**

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

**TEXTILES**

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

**TOBACCOS**

High	Low	Open	Close	Change

**Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator**

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**WEEKLY DIVIDEND £3,000**

Claims required for 198 points

**ACCUMULATOR £64,000**

Claims better than 198 points

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

Code	Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield
100	Lawrence	100	10	10	10
101	Lawrence	100	10	10	10
102	Lawrence	100	10	10	10
103	Lawrence	100	10	10	10
104	Lawrence	100	10	10	10
105	Lawrence	100	10	10	10
106	Lawrence	100	10	10	10
107	Lawrence	100	10	10	10
108	Lawrence	100	10	10	10
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197	Lawrence	100	10	10	10
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200	Lawrence	100	10	10	10

OVERSEAS TRADERS									
Code	Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield				
100	Lawrence	100	10	10	10				
101	Lawrence	100	10	10	10				
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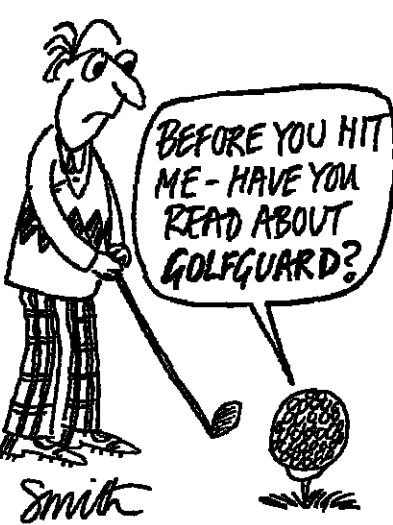
PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING									
Code	Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield				
100	Lawrence	100	10	10	10				
101	Lawrence	100	10	10	10				
102	Lawrence	100	10	10	10				
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151	Lawrence	100	10	10	10				
152	Lawrence								



FAMILY MONEY BRIEFING

# Householders, take care to keep costs down

No-claims bonuses for careful (or lucky) home-owners are being introduced by Automobile Association Insurance Services. Premiums on buildings and contents policies fall by 20 per cent after the first year if there are no claims. The AA's home and contents policies, sold under the name HomeSecure, also simplify the calculations to find the necessary cover. This is to avoid the risk of under-insurance, says the AA. As in the TSB policies, there is no need to estimate the rebuilding cost precisely. Similarly, on contents policies there is no request for detailed estimates. The company will want to know only the value of jewellery and valuables, the number of bedrooms, your post-code and whether the total replacement value is under £25,000 - if the value is more than this a special quotation will be needed. Contents cover for a three-bedroom terrace house in parts of London deemed riskiest by the insurer would cost £234 and buildings £105. Cover for a similar property in Dorchester would be £55 for contents and £88 for buildings. AA HomeSecure is underwritten by Municipal & General Insurance.



## The mortgage club

Mortgage Mates is a new package aimed at warring groups of non-home-owners on to the home ownership ladder. The group charges £50 per person membership, which is refundable if there is no mortgage offer. It will hold mortgage clinics at Roxborough Financial Services, the group's mortgage brokers. But these are not designed as find-a-mate social occasions. "We prefer to deal with groups. A mortgage is such a commitment that to introduce strangers is dangerous," said a spokesman. Members get no end of professionals

willing to offer their services, a property buying guide and various other documents such as 15 per cent off Swan National van and car hire. Details are available from Mortgage Mates, 43-45 Charlotte Street, London W1P 1HA (01-436 4267).

## Top for investment

Top of the Building Society Choice magazine league of savings rates this month is the National Counties Building Society with its Emerald Share account paying 6 per cent. There is a three-month notice period or three months' loss of interest and the minimum investment is £25,000. The Bolton, with its Three Month Shares, comes in just a whisker behind at 7.9 per cent, three months' notice and a minimum investment of £10,000. Bolton also tops the scale now on accounts with few restrictions. Its Extra Ordinary Shares pay 7.5 per cent. There are no withdrawal penalties and the minimum investment is £500.

## Consumers win

A Bank of Scotland customer who complained about the bank's policy of replacing cheque guarantee cards with Visa cards has scored a victory for consumer choice, after the intervention of the Office of Fair Trading at the Scottish Consumer Council's request. Last year the bank decided to bring in the Visa cards gradually, but some customers complained of the extra spending flexibility, which was encouraging them to incur debts they would not otherwise contemplate. They said that if they wanted a Visa card they would apply for it. The bank's standard letter to customers whose cheque cards were due to expire did not say they could still have a new cheque card instead. Now the bank says this option was always open and its standard letter has been changed to make this clear.

## Course cover

The golf course can be a dangerous place, naturally, there is a policy to cover the risk of injury through flying golf balls or amateur swings. GolfGuard covers liability for injury to others up to £500,000. It also pays out £2,000 for death, loss of limbs or dismemberment and £10 a week for temporary injuries that prevent the golfer from working. The cost depends on the value of golfing equipment and clothes covered.

# Hard-sell techniques at TSB

A TSB Scotland customer unknowingly gave details of his income, personal circumstances and bank accounts to someone in a local branch believing him to be a bank employee when he was actually a sales representative intent on a hard sell rather than friendly banking advice, writes *Erline Hunter*. James (not his real name) withdrew a small sum from his TSB deposit account and was then asked by the teller to see a Joe McQuillan in an adjoining room. Mr McQuillan said he liked to meet all new bank customers - James had opened the account at the Byres Road branch in Glasgow only a few months before. He asked to see the deposit pass book and then asked detailed questions about James's salary, mortgage, other outgoings and other bank accounts. He also asked what finance James might need in the near future, for example, for home improvements or a car. "I seriously thought he was

an assistant manager trying to woo me from my main account with another bank, and I was interested to see what better terms he could offer, especially for a car loan," says James. Well into the interview Mr McQuillan suggested that James put some money every month into a regular savings investment fund. He said: "You won't be paying any tax on the interest - does that sound good to you? And instead of having to borrow by car in the future, you can use the interest your fund has accumulated." After some questioning he said it was a 10-year plan with penalties for early withdrawals. He also said James could start by paying as little as £10 a month, though the leaflet he later gave James put the monthly minimum at £80. Mr McQuillan had still given no indication that he did not work at the branch and went on to question James about his pension provision. It was only then that he pro-

duced his business card, showing he worked for TSB Trust Company. "There is nothing wrong with the TSB's investment and pension plans in themselves, but it seems dubious practice for a bank to allow these hard sell tactics on branch premises," said James's friend, who was present during the interview. A TSB Scotland spokeswoman said: "It is normal practice for Trust Company staff to work from within our branches. It is important that our customers are given every opportunity to find out about the products and services the bank and other operating companies in the TSB Group have to offer. However, Trust Company representatives are not permitted to see account records of TSB customers held in TSB branches." But James gave this information himself, believing he was speaking to a branch official. The spokeswoman said: "It is the representative's

## INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

	Nominal rate	Compounded return at tax rates			Min/max investment £	Notice	Contact
		27%	45%	60%			
<b>BANKS</b>							
Ordinary Dep A/c	3.00	3.02	2.28	1.65	1 min	0-7 day	01-600 5020
Girobank	2.50	2.52	1.90	1.38	1 min	7 day	
Fixed Term Deposits:							
National Westminster	5.88	5.88	4.43	3.22	10,000-24,999	1 mth	01-726 1000
" " "	6.37	6.37	4.80	3.50	10,000-24,999	6 mth	01-726 1000
" " "	5.46	5.46	4.11	2.99	10,000-24,999	1 mth	01-260 8000
Midland	5.93	5.93	4.47	3.25	10,000-24,999	6 mth	01-260 8000
" " "							
<b>BUILDING SOCIETIES</b>							
Ordinary A/c	4.00	4.04	3.04	2.21	1 min	—	
Britannia <sup>2</sup>	6.15	6.15	4.63	3.37	250 min	—	
Northern Rock <sup>2</sup>	6.36	6.36	4.78	3.48	500 min	—	
Cheltenham & Gloucester <sup>2</sup>	6.75	6.75	5.09	3.70	5,000 min	—	
Britannia & North Rock <sup>2</sup>	7.05	7.05	5.31	3.86	10,000 min	—	
Northern Rock <sup>2</sup>	7.30	7.30	5.50	4.20	20,000 min	—	
Nationwide Non-Retail <sup>2</sup>	8.75	8.75	8.75	8.75	1 min	—	
<b>MONEY FUNDS</b>							
Altkem Hume Monthly Inc	5.83	5.99	4.51	3.28	1,000 min	—	01-638 6070
Allied Arab HICA	6.49	6.69	5.04	3.67	3,000 min	—	01-629 6800
Bank Of Scotland	6.20	6.39	4.81	3.50	2,500 min	—	01-628 6080
Barclays High Rate Dep	6.13	6.26	4.72	3.43	1,000 min	—	01-626 1567
"	6.25	6.40	4.82	3.51	10,000 min	—	01-626 1567
Britannia High Interest	5.65	5.79	4.36	3.17	2,500 min	—	01-588 2777
Citibank Money Mkt Plus <sup>2</sup>	5.50	5.64	4.25	3.09	2,000 min	—	01-741 4844
HFC Trust & Savings	6.75	6.92	5.21	3.79	5,000 min	—	01-638 5757
Henderson Cheque A/c	6.20	6.39	4.81	3.50	2,500 min	—	01-388 3211
L & G High Int Deposit	6.40	6.59	4.89	3.54	1,000 min	1 mth	01-407 1000
Lloyds Investment A/c <sup>2</sup>	5.00	5.12	3.86	2.81	5,000 min	3 mth	01-407 1000
Lloyds HICA <sup>2</sup>	5.00	5.12	3.86	2.81	1,000 min	—	01-407 1000
M&G HICA	5.74	5.89	4.44	3.23	2,500 min	—	01-626 4588
Midland HICA	6.00	6.14	4.63	3.36	2,000 min	—	01-626 4588
"	6.02	6.25	4.78	3.48	10,000 min	—	01-626 4588
Net West Special Reserve	6.13	6.27	4.72	3.44	2,000 min	—	01-626 4588
Oppenheimer Money Mgmt	5.64	5.76	4.34	3.16	1,000 min	1 mth	01-236 9368
"	5.74	5.88	4.43	3.22	10,000 min	1 mth	01-236 9368
Phillips & Drew HICA	6.02	6.16	4.64	3.38	2,500 min	—	031-557020
Provincial Trust Chq A/c	6.58	6.79	5.12	3.72	1,000 min	—	0708 766988
Royal Bk Of Scot Prem A/c	6.02	6.16	4.64	3.38	2,500 min	—	0708 766988
S & P Classic	5.55	5.71	4.30	3.13	500 min	—	0708 766988
Schroeder Wagg	5.83	6.00	4.52	3.29	2,500 min	—	0708 766988
Tyndall Cal	6.17	6.31	4.75	3.46	2,500 min	—	0708 766988
Tyndall 7-day	6.13	6.27	4.72	3.44	2,500 min	—	0708 766988
UDT 7-day	5.83	5.96	4.49	3.27	5,000 min	7 day	0708 766988
Western Trust	6.16	6.34	4.78	3.47	2,500 min	1 mth	0752 25116
<b>NATIONAL SAVINGS</b>							
Ordinary A/c <sup>2</sup>	5.00	5.12	3.85	2.80	1-10,000	8 day	041-6494555
Investment A/c <sup>2</sup>	10.00	7.30	5.50	4.00	5-100,000	1 mth	041-6494555
Income Bond <sup>2</sup>	10.50	7.67	5.78	4.20	2,000-100,000	3 mth	0253 6615
Deposit Bond <sup>2</sup>	10.50	7.67	5.78	4.20	100-100,000	3 mth	041-6494555
33rd Issue Cert <sup>2</sup>	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	25-1,000	8 day	041-6494555
Yearly Plan <sup>2</sup>	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	20-200/mth	14 day	041-6494555
General Extension Rate <sup>2</sup>	103.3	103.3	103.3	103.3			091-3864900
Retail Price Index: Dec	103.3	103.3	103.3	103.3			091-3864900
<b>GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS</b>							
General portfolio	7.50	7.50	5.65	4.11	1,000 min	1 yr	0992 3197
General portfolio	7.50	7.50	5.65	4.11	1,000 min	2 yrs	0992 3197
General portfolio	7.50	7.50	5.65	4.11	1,000 min	3 yrs	0992 3197
Premium life	7.50	7.50	5.65	4.11	1,000 min	4 yrs	0444 45872
Financial Assurance	8.25	8.25	6.22	4.52	2,000 min	5 yrs	01-367 6000
<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY TOWN HALL BONDS</b>							
Norhampton	6.58	6.58	4.96	3.61	500 min	1 yr	01-407 2767
Kirkcaldy	6.75	6.75	5.09	3.70	500 min	2 yrs	01-407 2767
Kirkcaldy	6.75	6.75	5.09	3.70	500 min	3 yrs	01-407 2767
Swansea	6.77	6.77	5.10	3.71	500 min	4 yrs	01-407 2767
Swansea	6.77	6.77	5.10	3.71	500 min	5 yrs	01-407 2767
Swansea	6.77	6.77	5.10	3.71	500 min	6 yrs	01-407 2767
Swansea	6.77	6.77	5.10	3.71	500 min	7 yrs	01-407 2767
Swansea	6.77	6.77	5.10	3.71	500 min	8 yrs	01-407 2767
Vale of Glamorgan	7.25	7.25	5.46	3.97	1,000 min	9 yrs	01-407 2767
Bristol	7.25	7.25	5.46	3.97	1,000 min	10 yrs	01-407 2767
Bristol	7.25	7.25	5.46	3.97	1,000 min	10 yrs	01-407 2767
<b>FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS</b>							
Starling	7.81	—	—	—	—	7 day	0481 2674
US Dollar	5.83	—	—	—	—	7 day	0481 2674
Yen	2.94	—	—	—	—	7 day	0481 2674
D Mark	2.29	—	—	—	—	7 day	0481 2674
French Franc	6.41	—	—	—	—	7 day	0481 2674
Swiss Franc	0.21	—	—	—	—	7 day	0481 2674
*Interest taxable, paid gross †Tax free ‡Higher returns for larger balances † Major banks: Lloyds 2.5% & Midland 2.75% ‡ Societies chosen based on high street presence, higher rates can sometimes be obtained from smaller societies - contact Chasing de Vre Moneyline 01-404 5766 ‡ 2.5% per cent for balances below £500, first £70 of interest tax free, instant access for withdrawals ‡ Minimum holdings up to £5,000 for investors re-investing proceeds of existing matured certificates ‡ Charge for instant access							



# Some hidden words on early retirement

New rules from the Inland Revenue could significantly improve the benefits from company pension schemes for people who take early retirement. But many potential beneficiaries and even their advisers may be unaware of the changes because of the way the Revenue gave the information in December.

Actuaries and consultants are disturbed about the way in which the rules have been released — through a consultative document circulated within the industry at the end of last year.

"The relaxation is hidden away in a discussion document circulated to the various pensions bodies recently for comment, but is stated as having immediate effect," explains *Watsons Commentary*, a newsletter published by the consulting actuaries R. Watson & Sons.

"In the absence of the proper dissemination of this important information by the Revenue themselves," adds *Watsons Commentary* acerbically, "we bring the point to our readers' attention."

Roger Key, a partner in the firm, said and his colleagues were "amazed" at the

way the announcement was made. "The worrying thing is that some pensions managers may not know about the change," he said.

Colin Steward, secretary of the parliamentary committee of the National Association of Pension Funds, was also shocked. "I was very surprised that the Revenue did not announce this by way of a press release rather than hide it away in a discussion document."

Because of the confusion he had sought confirmation from the Revenue. "I have had queries from consultants wanting to know if what they had heard about the rules was true," he said.

The Company Pension Information Service was not aware this week that the change had actually been implemented. The service was under the impression that the alteration was still at the proposal stage.

The new rule concentrates particularly on the difference between an employee's normal retirement date and the date he or she actually wants to leave. The change relates to both final salary and money purchase schemes and will

affect individuals with fewer than 20 years' service with their last employer.

The precise effect of the relaxation of rules varies according to every individual's circumstances and the structure of the scheme. But for some, says Mr Key, the effect on benefits could be dramatic, increasing the early retirement benefit by up to four times what it would have been under the old system.

In general, the longer the early retiree has served the more effect the rules have on the lump sum he or she can take. The shorter the period of service, the more effect there is on the annual benefit.

Mr Key gives two examples. An individual who joins a company at 45 and retires at 55, instead of an official retirement age of 65, earning £20,000 a year, could have a potential tax-free lump sum of £15,000 instead of £9,000 under the old rules. There would be no improvement in annual benefits for this individual.

Someone who joins a company at 50, and retires at 55 instead of 60, earning the same salary, could have a potential benefit of £6,667

now instead of £1,667 under the old rule. There would be a small improvement for this individual's lump sum payment as well.

The rules have applied since last December and affect pension schemes started before the last Budget.

A Revenue spokesman confirmed that the alteration had been included in the consultative document, *Benefits on Early Retirement*, circulated in December. This paper looks at a range of options for wide-ranging improvements in benefits from occupational pension schemes for those wanting to retire early.

The Revenue thought it right to change this particular aspect of early retirement benefits immediately before waiting to complete the overall review. Normally such information would be circulated through one of the Revenue's regular memoranda to the industry, but as one of these was not due out at the time, the Revenue thought it sensible to include it in the discussion paper.

The change has been included in a memorandum sent out to the industry this month. If the information has not been received by all relevant members of the industry now, it soon should be, said the spokesman.

"There has been no general objection to the way the announcement has been made," he added.

Mr Key counters that even in the memorandum the change is "buried" so that it might not be noticed.

Maria Scott

## Men in a pension fight

A reduction in the age at which men can begin drawing state retirement pension now seems certain, according to many closely involved with the campaign for change.

"I believe it is inevitable that this will happen within the next three years," says Patrick Carroll, an actuary now beginning a research project into the economic implications of bringing the pension age for men into line with that for women. At present women can start drawing a pension at 60 while men wait until 65.

The Campaign for Equal State Pensions believes men should also qualify at 60. The chairman, David Lindsay, a retired solicitor, says: "Men between 60 and 65 are having to subsidize the Government by £2,000 a year each."

The organization says 750,000 men in Britain aged between 60 and 65 are no longer working, yet receive no state support. Many receive no pension at all because they have not been members of occupational schemes or made private arrangements.

Encouragement has been drawn from the Government's statement in November that it has accepted that change is inevitable. Nicholas Scott, the Minister for Social Security and the Disabled, has said a report will probably be published this year.

CESPA says that although £3 billion is the figure normally quoted for the cost of making 60 the common pension age, this would be reduced

if the age was set above 60. The cost would be zero at 63 or 64. Government estimates are based on an assumption that few men would remain at work after 60 but, says CESPA, this would not necessarily be the case.

Mr Carroll has obtained funding from the Rowntree Memorial Trust for his research. He will look at the options for bringing pension ages for men and women into line, including the possibility of a flexible system allowing men and women a choice of ages and a sliding scale of benefits.

'Discrimination is overwhelming case'

CESPA has recently stepped up its lobbying. It has published a leaflet outlining its arguments and last week met the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Pensions. The message did not fall on deaf ears. The group's joint chairman, Andrew Bowden, MP for Brighton Kempdown, says: "There is an overwhelming case, purely on the basis of discrimination against men, that there should be an equal age. I think this is something that we have got to work towards."

More than half the companies in a new survey published this week had not yet decided what changes to make to equalize retirement ages to comply with the Sex Discrimination Act.

Since November it has been

illegal to force a woman to retire earlier than a man. But there is no penalty for companies encouraging different retirement ages. This change in the sex discrimination laws followed a decision by the European Court after Helen Marshall, a dietitian, brought a case that she was prevented from working after the age of 60.

An Equal Opportunities Commission spokesman said: "The problem is that the law relates to retirement ages but not pension. So in many cases a woman can still retire before 65 and draw an occupational pension but a man who retires before 65 will not have a pension. We are working on this."

The survey of 240 top companies by management consultants and actuaries Towers Perrin found that where a decision had been made on retirement ages, 91 per cent had opted for a common retirement age of 65.

The Towers Perrin consultant, Neil Ford, said: "Most employers have made the minimum changes required by law. As far as the pension scheme is concerned, many have adopted a 'wait and see' attitude. This is understandable, as long as the State maintains different retirement ages for men and women."

"Although there is pressure to reduce retirement ages, choice of age 65 has the merit of providing the greatest flexibility from which to make any subsequent changes."

MS



Gemma Craven washes that man out of her hair: The play, *South Pacific*, falls under the Act

## Fun things caught in the Act

Racehorses, trees and theatre shows are all covered by the out-sized umbrella of the Financial Services Act. Investment in tangible items such as paintings or racehorses are outside the Act, but as soon as a group of people are put together to share in an investment, this will be covered.

The Society of West End Theatre (SWET) and the Theatre Managers Association (TMA) held a meeting yesterday with the Securities and Investments Board to decide with which body the producers who gather funds from "angels" should be registered.

They have now got an instruction to register with IMRO, the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation.

"It is to be our first home even if it might not be our final home. At least we know where we are, at last. It is a big relief," said Eddie Kulukundis, who has three shows in the West End at the moment — *South Pacific*, *Separations* and *Curtains*, which opens on Monday. "As an industry, we did not realize until very late in the day that we would be included."

When more than one person owns a racehorse, this too may be counted as a collective

investment. The Jockey Club regulates the registration of syndicates of owners.

A statement in the Jockey Club's *Racing Calendar* next week will warn syndicate managers that they must take action before next weekend's deadline. Rhydian Morgan-Jones, of the Olympic Bloodstock Agency, said the standard working on a stallion syndicate was being changed so that it fell outside the Act.

He said: "SIB is not particularly interested in regulating stallion contracts. They are made up of breeders who understand the nature of the investment. They want to breed mares to the stallion not take an income from it."

But syndicates of racehorse owners are another thing, and as they are marketed to a wider public, may come under the Act.

Forestry investment companies that organize collective investment in woodlands are also caught by the Act. The ones that organize woodland owned by a single individual escape the clutches of the Act.

But others amalgamate up to 20 buyers to buy a portfolio of forestry land. These are

then classified as unitized investments. The Economic Forestry Group is applying for membership of FIMBRA, the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association.

EFG's investment director, Andrew Jennings, said: "If there are any undesirable practices, this will flush them out. It is all to the good."

Another area touched by the Act is the cosy world of investment clubs. These clubs are groups of up to 20 people who meet, perhaps once a month in one another's homes, to invest monthly sums and manage a common portfolio of shares. "I'm writing to the clubs telling them that they do not have to register, but there are some things that they will have to be careful about," said William Lowe, the secretary of the National Association of Investment Clubs.

He said that, for instance, the investment committee that takes quick decisions between regular meetings in writing and circulates them to members. It can circulate documents such as prospectuses and can comment on them verbally, but not in writing.

Vivien Goldsmith

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## MIDLAND MANAGED PORTFOLIO

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I/We enclose a cheque payable to Midland Unit Trusts for £ (min. £500) for investment in Midland Managed Portfolio accumulation units at the price ruling on the day of receipt of the application.

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Full Forenames of applicant(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature 1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_

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Please tick box for details of the Regular Savings Plan. ☐  
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**business day.** Accumulation date is 15th February and on 1st April unitholders receive an income tax voucher.  
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\*Source: Midland Montagu Asset Management 1.1.88. Both figures assume net interest reinvested and are adjusted for inflation as measured by the Retail Price Index.

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## Your battle plan before the Budget

## TAX PLANNING

Every year, at this time, you should consider the various tax-saving opportunities available. This week we present a check-list of some of the reliefs to be used up and other possible tax planning moves to be taken by April 5.

The Budget, on March 15, may well create opportunities. For example, income tax rates are likely to fall. However, tax planning should certainly not be put aside until after the Budget. You should work out your plan of campaign beforehand, although additional avenues may be opened up.

The following are some points to watch.

**TIME LIMITS:** Many of the time limits for claims and elections are geared to April 5. For example, certain claims relating to business losses have a two-year time limit, while others have a six-year limit. Review your potential claims and elections so that you can make sure these are made in time.

**WIFE'S EARNINGS ELECTION:** A particular time limit to watch concerns the election that couples must make so that the wife's earned income can be taxed separately. The general rules may well be changed by the Budget, but at present an election must be made before April 5 in the following year. Thus your 1986-87 election must be made by April 5, 1988. Once you have made the election, it remains in force until cancelled and a similar time limit applies.

Broadly speaking, for 1986-87 a wife's earnings election begins to produce tax benefits

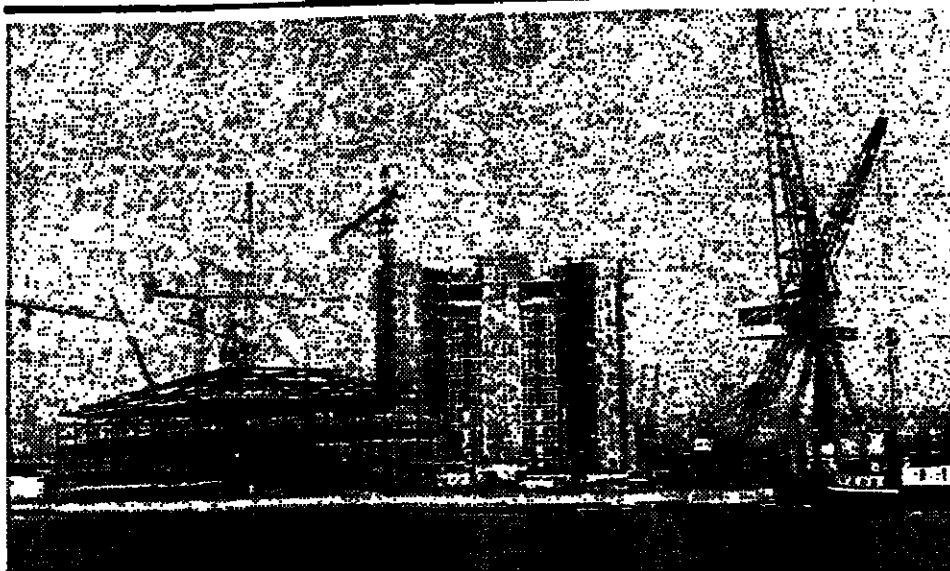
if her earned income exceeds about £7,000 and the combined incomes are more than £26,500. However, with great combined incomes, the wife's earnings can be less and the election still worthwhile.

**DEEDS OF COVENANT:** If you are planning new deeds of covenant, it is advisable to effect these before April 6, so as to obtain tax relief for the current year. This covers deeds to charities and also individuals, excluding your own unmarried children who are under 18. You make the payments after deducting basic-rate tax, which the recipients should be able to reclaim. Higher-rate tax can be reclaimed for charitable covenants only.

**RETIREMENT ANNUITY PREMIUMS:** Broadly, you are eligible to pay retirement premiums in respect of earnings not covered by an occupational pension scheme. Timing your premium payments is an important area for year-end planning. In particular, reductions in income tax rates create opportunities for your premiums to be allowed against higher taxes rather than lower ones. This is helped by being able to elect to take back premiums to the previous tax year.

You should also consider paying extra premiums between March 15 and April 5 this year, if lower income tax rates for 1988-89 are announced in the Budget. In that way, you will get relief against the higher 1987-88 rates.

**PENSIONS:** If you are in a company scheme, your employers' pay contributions geared to their accounting date. However, any contribu-



**Enterprise Zone:** This London Docklands office block is the core property in the sixth Property Enterprise Trust, which offers higher-rate taxpayers a "free" investment.

Investors can get a self-financing investment by receiving tax relief on the way into the scheme, which invests in a clutch of properties in Enterprise Zones, and by borrowing the rest of the

money. This loan is then serviced by the rental income from the building. A 45 per cent taxpayer would have to find some of the capital himself but higher-rate taxpayers need not be out of pocket.

A similar scheme from Colegrave Johnson, the LASER Trust, also has an Isle of Dogs property, Harbour Island - it is an island of shops, offices and restaurants built over the water.

ties you make yourself are relieved in the tax year of payment. Thus, you should consider additional voluntary premiums by April 5.

**COMPANY CARS:** You are normally assessed on a scale basis if you have a car as a condition of your employment. It may be beneficial for you to do extra business mileage, so as to clear the 2,500-mile or 18,000-mile requirements. At these levels, the benefit charges become lower.

**BES:** Up to £40,000 of Business Expansion Scheme investments are deductible from your assessable income every tax year. Thus, you should review the position prior to April 5.

**ENTERPRISE ZONES:** If your income is really high, consider buying industrial and commercial buildings in enterprise zones. An initial allowance of 100 per cent of the building cost is available. This can be done through a collective investment.

**CAPITAL GAINS TAX - ANNUAL EXEMPTION:** You should make the most of your annual exemption, which is currently £6,600. To do this, realize gains of up to this amount by April 5, 1988.

**BED-AND-BREAKFASTING:** If you have already made high capital gains this tax year, realize assets creating capital losses. Should you wish to retain the shares and other items concerned, sell them and buy them back no earlier than the following day.

This is known as "bed-and-breakfasting" and the loss realized is set against your gains.

**DEFERRING OF CAPITAL GAINS:** If you believe that Nigel Lawson will make sweeping changes to Capital Gains Tax this year, delay share sales until after the Budget. It may also make sense to wait until after April 5 as a means of deferring the tax for a year. However, market movements should also be considered.

**INHERITANCE TAX EXEMPTIONS:** A number of exemptions for Inheritance Tax purposes are given for every tax year. You should use them to cover gifts. There are the £3,000 annual exemption, and the same amount carried forward from the previous year if not already used. In addition, £250 is available for any number of people not covered by your annual exemption gifts. Husband and wife have their own separate exemption entitlements and also full rate scales each, including the nil rate band.

The list contains just a few of the many tax-saving opportunities to remember as April 5 draws near. Start planning and acting now. But review matters in the light of the Budget, as this may open up new possibilities. In particular, if lower tax rates are announced for next year, it will make even more sense to reduce your taxable income for this year.

Walter Sinclair

The author is a national tax partner in the chartered accountants Kiddons and the author of the Allied Dunbar Tax Guide 1987-88.

## Payout protests

## AIDS

A row is brewing over the distribution of the £10 million fund set aside by the Government last November to help haemophiliacs who have been unwittingly infected with the AIDS virus through treatment with NHS blood products.

There is concern that not all the estimated 1,200 patients who have become antibody-positive this way will receive money from the fund.

The fear is that those who appear to be well-off will miss out on the grounds that they do not need a government hand-out, despite the trauma they have suffered.

A Times reader, writing on behalf of a friend who is an antibody-positive haemophiliac, says that haemophiliacs had gained the impression at the time of the Government's announcement that all those affected would be helped.

However, the Haemophilic Society, which is setting up a trust to administer distribution of the money, is indicating that payment will be selective.

The reader says that while it may appear on the surface that his friend is better off than some others who have been

infected, "I consider it very unfair that some haemophiliacs will not receive any compensation at all".

David Watters, general secretary of the society, admits that he has had about six letters along the lines of the one from the Times reader but insists that the individuals involved are jumping to conclusions.

No decision has been made yet about how the money will be handed out or to whom. "No one should assume that they are excluded," he says.

Mr Watters points out, however, that the laws governing charities require money to be distributed to those in need and there are doubts about whether £10 million will be enough to do the job that the society believes needs to be done.

At the same time, he says: "One can have a very large income but still have financial need."

Mr Watters stresses that the government money is not intended as compensation. He advises claimants: "Those who are looking for compensation must pursue this through the courts."

Maria Scott

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Yes. Until 29th February 1988, there is a special fixed offer price of 50p, and special launch discounts. If you invest up to £4,999 you receive 1% extra allocation. On £5,000 and over, your discount is 1 1/2%. So it will pay you to get your application in now.

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Source: CML

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**APPLICATIONS** Applications for units will be acknowledged by a contract note and certificates will normally follow within six weeks. Units can be sold currently at the bid price ruling on receipt of your instructions. Charges will normally be issued within seven days of receipt of the remitted certificate.

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I am/we are over 18.  
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## FAMILY MONEY/3



## Bank protesters get the BUG

The Bank Users' Group — now you can call it BUG — seems to be taking off. Following last week's Family Money article, Karl Dallas is receiving another pile of letters from disgruntled bank users.

As well as building up a dossier of complaints, Mr Dallas intends to pass on hints to help customers in their dealings with the banks.

For instance, he says: "It is not enough to complain and get an unjustified charge withdrawn. Even if a bank withdraws the fee for an alleged bad cheque, you still have to be aware that they will charge for all cheques drawn, and charge interest for the entire period, if their records show — however falsely — that the account went into the red at any time."

"You have to insist that those charges are withdrawn too."

Times readers have a host of tales to tell about their woe!

**'Bonus affected by the complaints'**

banking experiences. John Sladden tried very hard to make his house move go smoothly, but all his efforts fell flat because the Midland Bank sent a large and vital cheque by post.

"I decided to allow a full day to elapse between selling one property and buying the next so as to avoid the need for a bridging loan," he said. "So we sold the first house on the Tuesday, spent that night with friends — the furniture being in two vans overnight — and arranged to buy the new house on the Wednesday. All this was in the full knowledge of both solicitors and the Midland Bank, which was the common banker."

"We and the two vans arrived at the new house at 9am on the Wednesday but the vendor's solicitors would not hand over the keys as they had not received the money. No mortgage was involved."

The cheque turned up in the second post and Mr Sladden, a child-care specialist, was able to move into his new home in Tonbridge, Kent.

But this experience was just the beginning of disenchantment with the service that the banks offered.

He is keen to join the BUG.

He says: "I have an idea, which I cannot prove, that the size of a bank manager's annual bonus is to some extent affected by the number of complaints to head office. So it must be worthwhile to write."

"Also, it is possible that once you have made a fuss, your file is annotated so that perhaps they take a little more care in the future."

The Rev Steve Dick, from Croydon Unitarian and Free Christian Church in Surrey, was shocked at the difference between his native American banks and the British banks.

"It's difficult to come to terms with the different attitude," he said. "In the States they are out for your business and try to please you. Here they always seem to be doing you a favour."

He said he had to complain "right to the top" to get a cash card even though he had placed a large deposit with the bank. And his bank, the National Westminster, continued to pay standing orders after they had been cancelled.

Kathleen Rowland, of west London, complains that her bank, the Royal Bank of Scotland, has either paid out standing orders twice or not at all. She says: "The bank's response, you can imagine, is rude, with continued incompetence."

John Burns, of Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire, who is retired, said: "Compared with how it used to be, there is no personal service any more. Because of the wretched computer, it is up to the customer to shout."

He has noticed that the service he gets as a retired individual is not the service he used to enjoy as the chief executive of a company with a sizeable turnover.

Prudence Adams, a nurse from Blackpool, Lancashire, who runs a hotel, says banks in the town are palatial, "and every time I go in, I think, 'It's me who's paying for all this.'"

Like Mr Dallas, she has had experience of banks refusing to honour cheques and charging for the privilege. Mrs Adams complains: "They charge each party £10. I wish I could earn £20 that easily. It takes a lot of bed and breakfasts in Blackpool to make £20 profit."

Vivien Goldsmith

## Tenerife turned out quite sunny after all

## TIMESHARE

Philip and Mary Johnson, of Altrincham, Greater Manchester, decided to sell the October week they own at Las Rossas, Wimpey's cliff-top development in Tenerife, bought in 1982 for £1,400.

They approached Wimpey last October and were told that the week was now worth around £2,600 — but they would have to pay essential legal fees and a 15 per cent sales commission.

Mr Johnson consulted two independent lawyers recommended by Wimpey only to be told that these transfer fees would be "between £1,000 and £1,200", a sum that seemed quite unacceptable to him.

The sales commission of £390 together with the legal fees would take more than half of the sale money and leave the Johnsons with a loss on the timeshare week. But the story had a happy ending after Mr Johnson contacted *The Times*.

He also immediately wrote to the Timeshare Developers Association (TDA), the consumer organization recently formed to try to be to timeshare what Association of British Travel Agents is to package holidays.

We found the exorbitant legal costs related to the official transfer of title — the *escritura* — which involved much the same amount of work for a one-week ownership transfer as it did for 10 or even 20 weeks.

## Holiday investment, not speculation

Wimpey, a founder member of the TDA, has only recently entered the resale market on an official basis and when this high legal cost was brought to its attention by *The Times* it acted immediately.

Within two days Wimpey had introduced a new resale programme. The company handled the essential legal side of any transaction, in-house, for a flat fee of 11 per cent, making the total cost of the sale, including the 15 per cent sales commission, 26 per cent.

The TDA, whose other founder members include Barran and Elliott, has always emphasized that timeshare should be seen as a holiday investment and not as a property speculation and in general recommends owners not to consider selling on for at least five years if they wish to recoup their purchase price.

There is no reason why a developer should undertake any resale before the project is sold out — he is certainly under no legal obligation to do so. But obviously as schemes are completed, the resale business increases — Wimpey now says that about 10 per cent of its owners are seriously considering selling — and with commission at 15 per cent it is a market worth staying in.

Very few overseas timeshare developments offer purchasers a share in the freehold with every week "owned" being registered on a different *escritura*.

A club system of ownership, where purchasers hold shares in a specially formed company, is more common. These resales, however, involve VAT payments, and as most TDA developments are UK-registered, this means 15 per

cent — higher than Wimpey's newly proposed 11 per cent legal fee.

The difference, however, is the fact that all these owners should be fully aware of this extra cost of selling, as they had to pay VAT on their purchase in the first place.

**Diana Wildman**  
Timeshare Developers Association, 19 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6LB (01-931 7800)



The timeshare flat that gave the Johnsons a financial shock



Happier now: the couple after receiving the right advice

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\*Planned Savings survey, November 1987.

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Please remember that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up and that past performance is no guarantee of future returns.

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Price and Yield: These are published daily in the leading financial newspapers and on Oracle page 51 and Proshare 401. The estimated gross starting yield for Fidelity MoneyBuilder is 5.5% at the fixed price of 25p until 26th February 1988. Thereafter units may be bought at the current daily offer price. Accumulation units only will be issued. Distribution date: 31st August (at 11th July).  
Charges: Initial charge: 5.25%. Annual charge: 0.5% plus VAT of the value of your investment. This charge is added to the unit price on the underlying date which currently ranges from 0.5% to 1.5%, with a permitted maximum of 2% for some trusts (subject to three months' notice to unitholders). Redemption is paid to qualified intermediaries; details are available upon request.  
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In view of this important legislative change, we recommend that you consult us now for further information and independent advice.

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Application forms must be returned, in good order, by Friday 26th February, 1988.

# FAMILY MONEY/5

## Deadline dash for top taxpayers

### MIPS

Amid the enthusiasm for the soon-to-be-curtailed merits of certain types of life assurance savings plans, it is possible to extract a few words of caution from even the salesmen themselves.

It should be borne in mind, they admit, that the schemes being pushed ahead of next Thursday's deadline to beat a new ruling from the Inland Revenue are best suited to higher-rate taxpayers.

The type of plan in the spotlight is known as a Maximum Investment Plan (MIP). This is a 10-year endowment plan that can be converted at maturity to provide a so-called tax-free income. A small annual premium must be paid to keep the lump sum invested to pay the income.

However, the plan will have already been subject to internal taxation to cover income and Capital Gains Tax.

The Capital Gains Tax is bad news for those who would not normally be liable to pay this on their investments.

With the usual type of endowment policy the sum payable on maturity comes in one lump. Investors have to make fresh arrangements if they want to use this to produce an income and tax is payable in the normal way.

### Policies useful to those paying school fees

The MIP policies are attractive to all those expecting to pay higher rates of tax in 10 years' time and

knowing that they will want a stream of income to pay school fees for instance. The lump sum remains in place, continuing to grow, but at the same time it can be drawn on to generate income. With careful planning, income can be generated almost indefinitely, although drawing off large sums will quickly deplete it.

Although tax is paid on the fund during the initial investment term, the income drawn after conversion of a MIP is tax-free. But the ability to draw this tax-free income applies only to MIPs started by midnight next Wednesday.

Despite their obvious benefits for the higher-rate taxpayer, MIPs, like any form of insurance-linked savings plan, are inflexible. People committing themselves to the scheme must be able to keep up the

premiums or risk the penalties of early surrender.

Generally no refund will be due for at least a year and even after that the refunds may amount to less than has been contributed. Higher-rate taxpayers will also be liable for a bill if they cash their plan in before seven and a half years.

M&G is stern in its warning that people should take independent advice before starting a MIP. "We

### Some companies are offering special bonuses

don't want to promote them to everyone," says Roger Jennings, M&G's marketing director.

Scottish Amicable has been dusting off a facility to increase premium contributions to a MIP over a period of years. This has been

available for some time but the company says it looks much more attractive now because it will allow people to improve the benefits available under the scheme well after the MIPs disappear in their present form.

However, the company says it is promoting its MIP quietly because it does not want to distract its sales force from its present main task of selling pensions.

Some insurance companies have been offering special bonuses on MIPs to attract investors before the deadline. The Criterion Assurance Group, for example, is offering to credit investors with an extra month's premium at the outset of the policy. Those saving more than £100 a month get another month's premium at the start of the third year of the plan.

Maria Scott

## Parent power builds up for a Budget offensive

"I don't think the British like children," said a child-care coordinator exasperatedly at Thursday's pre-Budget meeting of the Workplace Nurseries Campaign at the House of Commons.

She was angered by the poor child-care facilities in Britain. It was a point stressed by Jo Richardson, MP for Barking and Labour spokesperson on women's rights, when she admitted that although more than 1,000 women are working at the House, "we have been unable to organize any form of crèche in this building".

A sudden howl from a small baby, who, in the circumstances, had had to be brought to the meeting, promptly underlined what she said.

One serious drawback to workplace nurseries, is what someone at the meeting referred to as the "infamous toddler tax". This tax is the issue that launched the campaign.

Since 1984 users of workplace nurseries have had to pay between £700 and £1,000 a year in extra tax. This is because the subsidy given by the employer for every nursery place is added to the user's income. If this then comes to more than £2,500 a year, the parent is classified as higher-paid and taxed fully on the value of the subsidy.

A committee member of the campaign said wistfully: "If there is really all this spare money around for Budget tax cuts, why not get rid of the tax on workplace nurseries? It doesn't, after all, bring in very much money to the Treasury."

So far, however, the Treasury has proved resistant to the campaign's pressures, but the chairman, John Lyons, said he hoped that "the new influx of MPs will help change the climate".

The meeting came up with various suggestions for improving Britain's child care. "Why can't any working parent have a child-care tax allowance?" asked one woman. "Some parent may want to pay a neighbour to pick up a child from school and they cannot say, 'I want this to be tax deductible'."

Ms Richardson felt this area was a minefield. "Quite a lot of women who work don't pay tax, for instance," she said, "and this wouldn't help them."

Most of those at the meeting believed the main way to move up the world child-care league table was for employers to share responsibility with their employees over child care.

Few British employers provide nurseries. It is way down their list

of priorities, though some local councils are using their planning powers to get round this. They are refusing planning permission for new office blocks until nursery provision has been agreed. A new nursery in the City, called City Child, opened only after Islington Council played this particular game.

Not all employers behave badly. One woman at the meeting said one big oil company, in conjunction with its local authority, was looking at the idea of using a school as a nursery in the holidays. And some employers, such as London Weekend, buy places in nearby nurseries.

These workplace nurseries are different from crèches, which tend to be part-time and something only temporary. A nursery is full-time, with regular hours of attendance, usually open all day. They have to be registered with the local social services department and comply with its provisions.

For employers who are interested in having a nursery, but unsure how to set it up, Workplace Nurseries provides a child-care consultancy service.

Joy Melville

Workplace Nurseries, Southbank House, Black Prince Road, London SE1 7SJ (01-582 8622)



Baby talk: Jo Richardson meets mother Annamaria Crichard with son Bryn

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## Trial by newspaper was contempt

Attorney General v News Group Newspapers Ltd  
Before Lord Justice Watkins and Lord Justice Mann  
[Judgment February 19]

A newspaper which gave encouragement and practical assistance to a person to institute a private prosecution, according to the court, was liable to be prosecuted with the course of justice by publishing material about the person to be prosecuted which could only serve to and was so intended to prejudice the fair trial of that person, had engaged in conduct which amounted to contempt of court at common law, and was accordingly liable to be punished.

Where the proposed prosecution was virtually certain to be commenced, and particularly where it was to be commenced in the near future, it was proper to describe such a prosecution as imminent.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court held in reserved judgment that it allowed the Attorney General's application, under Order 52, rule 9 of the Rules of the Supreme Court, against News Group Newspapers Ltd, the proprietor and publisher of The Sun newspaper, to pay a fine for several contempts of court in publishing in the issue of March 14, 1986, articles entitled "Rape case doc Sun says" and "His case swine" and "Beast must be named, says MP", and in the issue of March 15, 1986, articles entitled "Rape case doc grope".

A fine of £75,000 was imposed and leave to appeal to the House of Lords refused.

Mr John Laws and Mr David Pannick for the Attorney General; Mr Robert Alexander, QC and Mr Desmond Browne for News Group Newspapers Ltd.

LORD JUSTICE WATKINS said that the proposed proceedings involved the prosecution of a Dr B, a consultant anaesthetist, who was alleged by an girl aged eight to have been responsible for a rape which her family doctor had diagnosed she had suffered. The county prosecuting solicitor and counsel had advised that there was insufficient evidence for a prosecution.

The newspaper's editor felt that the child and her mother were being denied access to justice and a private prosecution was clearly beyond the mother's means. Financial help was provided, and information was preferred on May 6, 1986, at Bramley Magistrates' Court. The doctor was acquitted after a trial at Chelmsford Crown Court on December 12, 1986.

The articles in March 1986 had been published partly from the newspaper's deputy legal manager. The possibility that they might be in contempt of court had not occurred to the editor, and had been dismissed from the legal manager's mind as any likely proceedings were a long way off.

His Lordship said that the

articles complained of could hardly have been bolder, larger or more prominent, emotive material was used, the doctor was named after he had been named in the House of Commons and his photograph published on the front page on the March 15, 1986 edition and personal details of the doctor.

Mr Laws submitted that since the articles were not within the strict liability provisions of sections 1 and 2 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981, the contempt alleged arose at common law which provided that any conduct which tended or was calculated to interfere with the course of justice which was then intended should be embarked on was contemptuous and consequently exposed the contemnor to punishment.

Further, although specific intent had been held to be required in such an offence—which proposition was not accepted by him—such proof was present on the evidence in the present case; in any event, recklessness had been undoubtedly established. The editor's evidence was deeply questionable and revealed a clear intention to ensure criminal proceedings were commenced against the doctor.

Moreover, everything in the articles served to prejudice the doctor in his trial, their contents could not have been forgotten by any potential juror who read them, and, at the time of publication, no one could predict how far off the commencement of proceedings was.

Mr Alexander contended that at the time of publication proceedings against the doctor were neither pending nor imminent, the necessary intent had not been established and recklessness could not be relied on, the Attorney General was seeking to broaden the field of contempt.

Further, the editor's evidence should be accepted as entirely genuine and true, especially the asserted lack of intention to interfere with the course of justice and that at the date of publication it was still uncertain whether a prosecution would or could be undertaken.

His Lordship said that the 1981 Act had made extensive provision for what might be called statutory contempt but section 6(c) provided that nothing in the Act "restricts liability for contempt of court in respect of conduct intended to impede or prejudice the administration of justice".

His Lordship agreed broadly with the observations made on intent by the Court of Appeal in Attorney General v Newspaper Publishing plc (The Times July 18, 1987; [1987] 3 W.L.R. 942, 977, 985), more especially with what related to the ascertainment of intention than with what was stated as to the kind of intent required. As to the latter it would be surprising if something less than a specific intent would be sufficient.

The ascertainment of the existence of intention was a

commonplace exercise of judgment involving the drawing of an inference from an established fact which was done every day by judge and jury. Mr Alexander, relying on R v Moloney ([1985] A.C. 905), submitted it would be wrong to infer the required intent from the contents of the articles.

His Lordship agreed with Mr Pannick's submission that the court was not bound to accept the editor's assertion that he did not intend to interfere with the administration of justice.

But the articles did not stand alone. The required intent was to be inferred as well from the evidence on affidavit and financial support to the mother.

His Lordship could not accept that an experienced editor could have failed to have foreseen that the material which he published and the steps he announced he was taking to assist the mother to prosecute would incur a real risk of prejudicing the fairness of the doctor's trial.

It was an inescapable inference that he became so convinced of the doctor's guilt and incensed by that and the failure to prosecute him that he endeavoured to persuade the readers of The Sun to take a similar view, some of whom could possibly have formed part of a jury to try the doctor.

That was trial by newspaper, a form of activity which struck directly at a jury's impartiality. Furthermore, what conceivable reason could there be for publishing the article headed "Doc grope" unless it was intended to prejudice a fair trial by bringing to readers' attention extremely damaging material affecting the doctor, which would be inadmissible as evidence in his trial.

His Lordship had no doubt that the publication of the articles was reckless, but recklessness had been held not to be sufficient to constitute contempt at common law, see Newspaper Publishing at pp983-985.

But a further vital issue had to be resolved before it could be established that contempt at common law had been committed. Mr Alexander had submitted that such contempt was committed unless the conduct complained of was carried out at a time when proceedings were either pending or imminent.

Further, he submitted, imminence related only to the inception of proceedings; see per Lord Diplock in Attorney General v Times Newspapers Ltd ([1974] A.C. 273, 308).

His Lordship was impressed with Mr Pannick's submissions that "imminent proceedings" was a vague and uncertain phrase which could not be confined to any particular length of time as a matter of principle; its application depended on all the circumstances.

There were cases where although proceedings were not yet active they were likely to be commenced in the near future;

some proceedings were imminent when there was a likelihood on a real risk that they would be instituted in the near future, and when there was a real risk that the kind of publication would interfere with the course of justice.

In the instant case proceedings were imminent; the newspaper intended they should be commenced in the expense as soon as possible and actively pursued that goal because they were determined to see the doctor charged, tried and convicted.

Alternatively, if the proceedings could not be said to be imminent, common law contempt applied nonetheless in the whole circumstances of the case. That was because the purpose of the contempt jurisdiction was to prevent interference with the course of justice. The contents of the articles created a real risk that a fair trial would be impeded.

The authorities were not concerned with the scope of common law contempt where such an intent existed in relation to proceedings in the contemplation of an alleged contemnor who deliberately assisted a private prosecutor to prosecute as soon as possible.

His Lordship said that the circumstances in which a criminal contempt at common law could be committed were not necessarily confined to those in which proceedings were either pending or imminent.

The common law was not a worn-out jurisprudence rendered incapable of further development by the ever-increasing incursion of parliamentary legislation. It was a lively body of law capable of adaptation and expansion to meet fresh needs calling for the exertion of the discipline of law.

The need for a free Press was axiomatic but the Press could not be allowed to charge about like a wild unbridled horse. It had to a necessary degree in the public interest to be curbed.

The curb was in no circumstance more necessary than when the principle that every man accused of crime should have a fair trial was at stake. It was a principle which, in his Lordship's experience, newspaper proprietors and editors were usually as alert as anyone to avoid violating.

In the present case the kind of threat which the articles complained of posed to the proper administration of justice was by no means novel. The newspaper had very much in mind particular proceedings which they were determined, as far as lay within their power and influence, to ensure took place.

If it was necessary for the Attorney General to establish that the proposed proceedings were imminent he had done so in the present case.

Lord Justice Mann agreed. Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Headquarters, Farrer & Co.



## LEGAL AND FINANCIAL

## Forget North-South: the Mancunians are winning

Monday's bright weather was so delightful I couldn't resist taking a stroll down Piccadilly. And then on into Pall Mall. And after that, of course, up into Albert Square.

Albert Square?

Yes, Albert Square. Because this was not a day of self-indulgence in London but a flying visit to the centre of Manchester.

If I was expecting to meet people who were depressed about the future of the North-west, then I was mistaken. Manchester's "Golden Half Mile", with its 60-odd international banks, its full complement of the Big Eight, and its smart lawyers' offices, was looking and talking like a regional centre on the edge of a boom.

Forget the North-South split. You can even stop believing that it rains in Manchester every day. Manchester accountants and lawyers are as buoyant as they can be about the prospects for their city.

"Things have changed dramatically in the last five years," said Paul Lee of Addleshaw Sons & Latham. "There is now a confidence in Manchester which is reflected in every aspect of its life. You can see it in industry, in the arts, and in the hotels and restaurants. And, perhaps most of all, we see it professionally with the number of flotations we do and the

## Lawyers have 'sharpened up' beyond recognition

kind of new clients who are coming to us."

Addleshaw's, with its 19 partners, is one of the biggest firms in the region. Although it cannot compare in size with the big London firms, Paul Lee feels that it can more than compete in terms of expertise.

"The problem we face is that when a local business grows to a certain size then pressures are put on it - particularly by the banks - to switch to a London lawyer. What we are trying to do is to convince industry in Manchester and the rest of the region that they will get just as good, and probably a better, service here in Manchester."

Certainly one of the converts to this view is Royce Batters, a management consultancy partner at Arthur Young.

"Ten years ago I wouldn't have advised a major client to use a local lawyer," said Mr Batters. "Now, however, they have sharpened up beyond recognition."

## Edward Fennell visited Manchester and found

## Northern grit smoothed by the prosperity of the

## city's business centre, the "Golden Half-Mile"

"There is a new generation of solicitors running the firms these days who are much clearer about their objectives. And they seem determined to win back for Manchester the work which they have lost to the South."

A focal point for the new confidence in Manchester is the Manchester Financial and Professional Forum. This was formed three years ago and brings together all the city's leading accountants, solicitors, bankers and stock-brokers.

By acting as a kind of self-help group for the local business community the MFPF is also providing a platform for the professional firms to demonstrate that Manchester has all the legal and financial skills that the region needs.

One of the moving spirits behind the forum was the Manchester office of Spicer & Oppenheim whose own history charts in microcosm the ups and downs of the past 30 years.

"Until the early 1970s we were known as Garnett, Crewdson and our history was totally tied up with the cotton industry," explained managing partner Graham Calder. "We were part of the old Manchester Establishment and without doubt were the leading firm of accountants in the town."

"But as cotton went down so did we. It used to be 80 per cent of our business now it's down to 15 per cent. In 1971, though, we became part of Spicer & Oppenheim."

"Our horizons have become international and our resources are greater than ever before. And, frankly, our clients need that because although many of them are small they are thinking internationally too - they need a firm of accountants with our sort of links."

The international dimension of Manchester's resurgence is referred to time and time again. One of the critical factors in this is the tremendous success of Manchester airport, which is expanding at an amazing rate.

Used by more than eight million passengers a year, it looks as bright and attractive as anything you could find anywhere in Europe. What is more, it provides a gateway to the world which lawyers and accountants have capitalised upon.

For example, just flown in from Zurich when I met him at the airport in the evening, was Geoffrey Schindler of Halliwell Landau. With the Budget coming up in three weeks' time he had popped over to Switzerland for the day to advise a client. He expected to be going back there again next week. Without the local airport that kind of business just would not be possible.

Halliwell Landau is one of Manchester's newest firms, having grown from nothing to 12 partners in the space of the same number of years. Its success mirrors the revival of the city itself.

Even newer in some ways is Cobbett Leak Almond, which was formed just last year and operates out of the newly-refurbished and fully computer-equipped Ship Canal House. Information technology was indeed almost the raison d'être of the firm which came about through the merger of Cobbetts and Leak Almond & Paterson, two of the most senior Manchester law firms.

"Both of us realized that we needed

## Local airport invaluable to legal business

either to grow or to merge to make the necessary capital investment in information systems," said Anthony Fielden, who is now the managing partner.

"We also needed greater depth of specialism. Now, with the merged firm, I believe that we have the people and resources to deal with all the normal transactions just as well and a lot cheaper than London."

So it looks as if the Mancunians are winning. But, of course, they have local loyalties on their side. As Hubert Thompson of Peat Marwick McLintock, Manchester's largest firm of accountants, commented: "Clients up here want a local service. They prefer to come to people like us who are committed to working and living here."

"And that matters because at the end of the day it is the individual relationship with the client that counts. And that relationship can be best maintained if you are round the corner from each other and not two hundred miles away."

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RACING: ELSWORTH CAN INCREASE LEAD IN TRAINERS' PRIZE MONEY LIST BY PLUNDERING VALUABLE PRIZES AT CHEPSTOW AND WINDSOR

# Flying Barnbrook Again poised to underline claims for Arkie

By Mandarini (Michael Phillips)

David Elsworth, the season's leading trainer money-wise, should add to his considerable haul today by winning the Aynsley China Cup Chase at Chepstow with Barnbrook Again and at Windsor with Rhyme 'N' Reason.

Top-class hurdlers do not necessarily make good chasers but Barnbrook Again has made the transition in some style.

Third to See You Then and Flatfitter in last year's Champion Hurdle, beaten less than three lengths, Barnbrook Again was not seen out again until November when he won his first steeplechase at Devon and Exeter by almost the length of the straight there.

Since then he has won similar races at Ascot also by wide margins, earning rave reviews in the process.

While today's opposition is the strongest overall that he has faced and the distance the farthest that he has countered, it will be bitterly disappointing if he fails to win again and thereby stress his rights to start favourite for the coveted Arkie Challenge Trophy at Cheltenham next month.

With Slalom, Rustle, Ob-

serve, Three Counties and Border Burg also running at Chepstow visitors to that course should be able to pick up some useful tips for the National Hunt Festival.

Slalom could prove an aptly-named winner, in the middle of the Winter Olympics, by beating Rustle for the Foodstuffs Persian War Novices' Hurdle.

In hindsight, he was probably attempting the impossible at Sandown a fortnight ago when unsuccessfully attempting to give weight away all round to some pretty decent horses on his first venture into handicap company.

Before that he had made Drummie Hill, another decent novice judged on his latest win at Doncaster, look very ordinary indeed at Newbury.

As Rustle was not wholly convincing at Cheltenham three weeks ago, I'm inclined to favour Slalom now.

My idea of the day's best bet is Barge Pole (nap) to win the Steel Plate and Sections Young Chasers' Qualifier.

After winning his first race over fences at Warwick, Barge Pole then forced Dad's Gamble to put out all the stops at Lingfield.



Gordon Richards fancied for a Nottingham double

Barge Pole would have been expected to go really well in a much harder race at Newbury last Saturday had not that heavy rain forced the stewards to stop racing halfway through the afternoon.

While conceding that Windsor's sharp figure-eight track will suit Bolands Cross better than Rhyme 'N' Reason I still just prefer the latter for the Fairwinds Chase.

The two have met twice already this season and each time Rhyme 'N' Reason has fared the better albeit on more favourable terms.

Since then Rhyme 'N' Reason has run really well at Sandown to finish second to

Charter Party in the Gainsborough Chase.

It was at the start of that programme that Surf Board made an indelible impression on those who watched him win his first race over hurdles and thereby become firmly lodged in favour to win the Triumph Hurdle at Cheltenham.

The conditions of today's Flat Bodge Hurdle are tailor-made to suit a horse of his ability.

At his best, Aldine ought to be capable of winning the City Trial Hurdle at Newbury when a double for Gordon Richards, his owner, the Edinburgh Woolen Mill Company, and their jockey Phil Tuck looked very much on the cards thanks to Randolph Place (3.15) and the Langholm Dyer (3.45).

Choosing between Randolph Place and Saffron Lord for the Nottinghamshire Novices' Chase is not easy.

Saffron Lord was the better hurdler and he has certainly done nothing wrong since his attention was turned to steeplechasing.

Randolph Place, though, is still entitled to be preferred having disposed of Private Views so readily at Ayr last time out.

## Phil Grey to surprise the seniors

By Brian Beal

Border Burg was denied a run at Newbury on Monday as, in the absence of owner-trainer James Delahouke, abroad on a skiing holiday, nobody had the authority to declare him to run.

Delahouke is now home and will be at Chepstow today to see his Grand National hope in action in the Harbour Hunters' Chase (3.10).

With the line-up including Observer and Three Counties, the winner and second of the 1987 Cheltenham Fox Hunters' respectively, Border Burg's task will not be an easy one.

In a race containing these three stars it may seem foolish to look elsewhere for the winner but the younger PHIL GREY could surprise all three.

He is the only one out of these three who has an outing this season and shared his success when winning the open race at the East Cornwall point-to-point in fine style last Saturday.

The area around Windsor is not well known as hunting country and the Thames Valley Hunters' Chase (4.0) does not appear to be too aptly named with the ex-National Hunt chasers Our Pan, Smartside and Kingswood Kitchens below the main contenders. OUR PAN may show for his Huntingdon defeat.

CARNEADES is preferred to Pentine and Bourne Bank in the BBC Radio Nottingham Novices' Hunter Chase (2.15).

## Gifford maintains momentum for powerful Festival attack

After saddling more than 100 runners at the Cheltenham Festival, Josh Gifford has still to break the winning, but he is marshalling a powerful attack for next month.

The Festival strike force will include Paddyboro, who sparked off a 15-1 double for the in-form Findon trainer when sprinting away from Mr Key in the Men's Handicap Chase at Sandown Park yesterday.

Paddyboro possesses that rare ability to move up a gear at the finish, and will relish the punishing climb to the winning post at Cheltenham. He has a chance of a Festival target in the Midway or Fife or the Grand Annual Chase.

Gifford is convinced he has a future Gold Cup winner in Dad's Gamble, who looked every inch a potential star when coming second in the Stand Novices' Chase.

Jumping in spectacular style, Dad's Gamble went to the front turning out of the back straight and, always holding the challenge of fellow joint favourite

Southern, went on to win by two lengths.

Gifford believes Dad's Gamble needs another year to reach full potential, and the gelding is likely to bypass the Festival this year.

A Gifford-Rowe treble looked on the cards with Chief Inroddie bowling along in front turning for home in the Stanley Handicap Chase, but Jim Joel's gelding had no answer to the powerful late run of Torside, who won by a length.

Russian Affair ended some of his rivals' Triumph Hurdle dreams when winning the Birchwood Novices' Hurdle, but he will not be in the line-up.

## Jefferson and Doughty cleared

Trainer Malcolm Jefferson and jockey Neale Doughty were yesterday cleared by the Jockey Club of 'schooling in public'.

The pair were summoned to Portman Square to explain the improved running of novice hurdler Potato Picker, who gained a

for the juvenile hurdling crown. Trainer Reg Akehurst said: "I'm not a lover of the Triumph, it takes too much out of a horse, and tends to destroy them for the future."

The Epsom trainer will aim Russian Affair instead for the Tate Placepot Hurdle at Kempton Park next weekend. Last autumn, he gave 27,000 guineas for Russian Affair, a winner on the Flat for Newmarket trainer Alec Stewart.

Akehurst's Champion Hurdle hope, Juven Light, warmed up for Cheltenham by running in the National Spirit Challenge Trophy at Fontwell on Monday.

Doughty said: "I've accepted our explanation that he had broken blood vessels in his nostrils when he ran at Newcastle."

### CHEPSTOW

#### Selections

By Mandarini

- 1.00 BARGE POLE (nap). 2.35 The Thirsty Farmer. 3.10 Three Counties. 3.40 Wild Sap.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.00 BARNBROOK AGAIN.

#### Going: soft (chase course); good to soft (hurdles)

##### 1.0 STEEL PLATE & SECTIONS YOUNG CHASERS NOVICES CHASE (Qualifier: 22.75; 2m) (12 runners)

- 1 210/02 BARGE POLE 64 (D) Lord Chelston T Foster 7-11-6 J Davies 68  
2 000/04 BARNBROOK AGAIN 20 (D) Lord Chelston T Foster 7-11-6 J Davies 68  
3 000/04 BARNBROOK AGAIN 20 (D) Lord Chelston T Foster 7-11-6 J Davies 68  
4 000/04 BARNBROOK AGAIN 20 (D) Lord Chelston T Foster 7-11-6 J Davies 68  
5 000/04 BARNBROOK AGAIN 20 (D) Lord Chelston T Foster 7-11-6 J Davies 68  
6 000/04 BARNBROOK AGAIN 20 (D) Lord Chelston T Foster 7-11-6 J Davies 68  
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9 000/04 BARNBROOK AGAIN 20 (D) Lord Chelston T Foster 7-11-6 J Davies 68  
10 000/04 BARNBROOK AGAIN 20 (D) Lord Chelston T Foster 7-11-6 J Davies 68  
11 000/04 BARNBROOK AGAIN 20 (D) Lord Chelston T Foster 7-11-6 J Davies 68  
12 000/04 BARNBROOK AGAIN 20 (D) Lord Chelston T Foster 7-11-6 J Davies 68

### 2.0 AYNSELY CHINA CUP CHASE (21.00; 2m 4f) (5 runners)

1 233/11 BARNBROOK AGAIN 10 (D) Lord Chelston T Foster 7-11-6 J Davies 68  
2 12/04 GALEY FARMER 14 (D) Lord Chelston T Foster 7-11-6 J Davies 68  
3 12/04 GALEY FARMER 14 (D) Lord Chelston T Foster 7-11-6 J Davies 68  
4 001/23 BARNBROOK AGAIN 20 (D) Lord Chelston T Foster 7-11-6 J Davies 68  
5 001/23 BARNBROOK AGAIN 20 (D) Lord Chelston T Foster 7-11-6 J Davies 68

### 3.0 HATCH BRIDGE HURDLE (21.00; 2m 3f) (13 runners)

1 233/11 BARNBROOK AGAIN 10 (D) Lord Chelston T Foster 7-11-6 J Davies 68  
2 12/04 GALEY FARMER 14 (D) Lord Chelston T Foster 7-11-6 J Davies 68  
3 12/04 GALEY FARMER 14 (D) Lord Chelston T Foster 7-11-6 J Davies 68  
4 001/23 BARNBROOK AGAIN 20 (D) Lord Chelston T Foster 7-11-6 J Davies 68  
5 001/23 BARNBROOK AGAIN 20 (D) Lord Chelston T Foster 7-11-6 J Davies 68

### 4.0 THAMES VALLEY HUNTER CHASE (21.14; 2m 5f) (16)

1 233/11 BARNBROOK AGAIN 10 (D) Lord Chelston T Foster 7-11-6 J Davies 68  
2 12/04 GALEY FARMER 14 (D) Lord Chelston T Foster 7-11-6 J Davies 68  
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### FORM

BARGE POLE (11-0) jumped well when 2nd to Dad's Gamble at Lingfield last time, Dec 12, 12 r.

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# French plan to get the full measure from two half-pints

## Thorburn and Hastings are well-matched plunderers

...back at the absence of John.

# Cup rehearsal could open up title chase

## ATHLE

# Marathon schedule

## Marathon men with schedule to justify

Of the team selected for the

# England reshape midfield

## Australians searching for a new president

## Welsh rally to snatch late victory

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— \* — \* —

## Welsh rally to snatch late victory

**the stronger side with a burst of 12 points in as many minutes.**

**SCORERS:** Welsh Universities: Tries: G Thomas (2), A Booth, M Karry. Conversions: D Evans (3). Penalty goals: D Evans (2). Scottish Universities: Tries: G Hawkes, S Simmers. Conversion: C.

Wales		Scotland	
<b>P H Thorburn</b> (Neath)	15	<b>Full Back</b>	<b>A G Hastings</b> 15 (Watsonians)
<b>C Evans</b> (Llanelli)	14	<b>Right wing</b>	<b>M D F Duncan</b> 14 (West of Scotland)
<b>M G Ring</b> (Pontypool)	13	<b>Right centre</b>	<b>A V Tait</b> 13 (Kelso)
<b>S Bowen*</b> 12 (South Wales Police)	12	<b>Left centre</b>	<b>S Hastings</b> 12 (Watsonians)
<b>M Hadley</b> (Cardiff)	11	<b>Left wing</b>	<b>I Tulzako</b> 11 (Salisbury)
<b>D Davies</b> (Llanelli)	10	<b>Stand off</b>	<b>A B M Kar</b> 10 (Kelso)
<b>N R Jones</b> (Swansea)	9	<b>Scrum half</b>	<b>R J Laidlaw</b> 9 (Jed-Forest)
<b>T J Jones</b> (Pontypool)	1	<b>Prop</b>	<b>D M B Sole</b> 1 (Edinburgh Acadia)
<b>Watkins</b> (Ebbw Vale)	2	<b>Hooker</b>	<b>G J Callender*</b> 2 (Kelso)
<b>Young</b> (Swansea)	3	<b>Prop</b>	<b>N A Rowan</b> 3 (Gorroughmuir)
<b>Phillips</b> (Neath)	6	<b>Flanker</b>	<b>J Jeffrey</b> 6 (Kelso)
<b>May</b> (Llanelli)	4	<b>Lock</b>	<b>A J Campbell</b> 4 (Hawick)
<b>L Norster</b> (Cardiff)	5	<b>Lock</b>	<b>D F Cronin</b> 5 (Guthrie)
<b>G Collins</b> (South Wales Police)	7	<b>Flanker</b>	<b>F Calder</b> 7 (Stewart's-M FP)
<b>N P Moriarty</b> 8	8	<b>No 8</b>	<b>D B White</b> 8

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Bedford, unchanged from the side that beat Headingly, will be the first to play the Scottish in the Burrells if they win. Jersey continues at full back while Scottish, too, are unchanged.

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Bath are without their first-choice back five forwards, Withey and Maseley joining Simpson in the back row and Morrison and Jackson lock. Gloucester remain the side beaten by Wasps in the cup.

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A repeat of last week's result in which Bristol won by 34 points. They change half the side, Harding leading instead of the absent (Parker) and the pack including Bagra (hooker) and Pollock (flanker).

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Moore, the England hooker who missed last week's club game because of a leg injury, returns to Nottm where he has fielded out England's new wing.

**Roundhay v Moseley**  
Roundhay, from area league north, table on first division with Moseley, who are bringing in Fenley at scrum half and resting Jowles from the flank,

**Coventry v Northampton**  
Coventry make substantial changes among their forwards as the cup defeat by Sale: Revan comes into the front row, Jaggard and Suckling into the back row.

**Glam Wand v Plymouth A**  
Plymouth prepare for next week's cup quarter-final against Wasps with a demanding game against Wanderers, who have Roke on one wing and Griffiths on the other.

**Tomorrow**  
**Saracens v Rosslyn Park**  
Saracens, who need to win their five remaining league games to avoid promotion to the second division, have Wood on the wing against Park, the second division leaders for whom Ripley and Hyde return.

**Pontypridd v L Welsh**  
Phil Thomas makes his first appearance of the season at full back for the Welsh. Pontypridd won only one of their last 18 games. Bain leads Pontypridd

## **BOWLS**

# **Springbok officials keep a low profile**

of the IBB, but will not hold any office," said Clark, while his predecessor, Garnet Putland, of Australia, added: "It is for governments to review the situation, not the IBB. All countries are bound by the Geneva Agreements."

## **HOCKEY**

# **Pappin's injury threatens his tour**

Doherty, Gowan and Mackenney, and also Tedstone, who plays cricket for Warwickshire. Not the least of their worries is their fate in the first division of the Wilson League in which, as champions, they hold third place behind Stourport and Harborne.

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Of the team selected for the

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# Champion suspended for 21 days

By Andrew Longmore

Peter Scudamore, National Hunt's champion jockey, was banned from riding for 21 days by the Jockey Club yesterday after a bargaining incident in a hurdle race at Newbury eight days ago.

Scudamore's suspension takes effect from today, ending on March 11, four days before the Cheltenham Festival meeting begins. Bruce Dowling, the other jockey involved in the incident, was also suspended for three weeks, as both were found guilty of causing interference by reckless riding.

It is Scudamore's second suspension. On the previous occasion he confessed: "I was in the wrong and got what I deserved." But those were not quite the sentiments he expressed yesterday.

"I am disappointed because I was looking towards a fine," Scudamore said after a 45-minute hearing. "I didn't expect to get as long as I did but I had a fair hearing, so I can't complain. I have got a good record but when you go round racing long enough things happen and you've got to accept them."

Dowling, who was considered by many to be more sinned-against than sinning, was less happy with the verdict. "I feel harshly treated. Obviously, they felt we were equally guilty and so they treated us equally. But there's no hard feelings against Peter. We're the best of friends."

The pair were originally reported to the Jockey Club after the 27-runner February Novices' Hurdle at Newbury on February 12.

Scudamore, riding Ghillies Hill, was seen by the video patrol camera to baulk Dowling, on King Of The Lot, who was trying to come up the inside as they approached the cross hurdle, where there is no running rail. The riders clashed and King Of

More racing, pages 36 and 37

The Lot fell at the next fence, Ghillies Hill going on to finish fifth. The Newbury stewards held their inquiry but then referred the matter to the Jockey Club.

In the short term Scudamore misses the ride on Barnbrook Again at Sandown today but he must be relieved that the three-man panel, chaired by Lord Vestey, did not add

an extra week's suspension which would have covered Cheltenham. Doubtless, the stewards took notice of the champion's good disciplinary record in this country, though it is not Scudamore's first suspension.

In 1985 he was banned for 12 days for elbowing another rider while racing for a Great Britain team in New Zealand. In an incident very similar to the one at Newbury, Scudamore was thought to have pushed the horse coming up his inside into the running rail.

Yesterday's suspension, capped a troublesome season for the champion. It comes only a month after he was fined £300 by the Newbury stewards for his riding of Arbitrage in the L'Oreal Handicap Hurdle.

Earlier in the season he was injured in a horrendous fall at Wolverhampton but missed only two days. Nothing, though, has stopped him from running away with the jockeys' title and, if it does nothing else, Scudamore's suspension will give new hope to Phil Tuck, who was 29 winners behind Scudamore's tally of 79 this morning.

The next 21 days will weigh heavily on such a serious and dedicated rider as Scudamore but even more so on the inexperienced and talented Dowling. Scudamore could afford to be philosophical about the decision. "It's all part of the long struggle," he said yesterday. Asked if the suspension would change his attitude, he replied with a rare grin: "Oh, yes, next time I'll just let him through."

## Managers ready to take risks for Cup success

By Clive White

Alex Ferguson, desperate for his first major success as manager of Manchester United, is prepared to risk Bryan Robson, the injured England captain, for one hour today against Arsenal at Highbury in order that United maintain a run which he hopes could lead them all the way to Wembley.

Ferguson, who had Robson flown home in midweek from Tel Aviv after he had injured a thigh muscle, said yesterday: "Bryan will be under treatment until the last possible minute. If there is a possibility of getting him on for an hour the risk would be worthwhile." Bobby Robson, the England manager, looking beyond Wembley to the European championships might tend to disagree.

There are indications that midfield could hold the key in the FA Cup fifth round's outstanding tie of the day; George Graham, the Arsenal manager, is contemplating bringing back the influential Davis, who has been absent from the first team for two months with a hernia injury. But the rigours of a tie, which will be watched by a full house of 45,000, could prove to be too much for either Robson or Davis.

A more likely deciding factor could be the sometimes soft centre of United's defence and Arsenal's ability to expose it, particularly in the air. Graham was at his most secretive yesterday, declining to name his team, but it would not be too outrageous to suggest that the 6ft 4in Quinn could be one of the surprises.

Graham says he may have in store.

Quinn scored in Arsenal's unlikely 2-1 defeat by United at Highbury last month and had what appeared to be two good goals disallowed as United struggled to contain him. He may well be preferred to the impotent Smith. Between them both clubs announce the sudden return to fitness and health of five players, not including Robson, who were forced to withdraw from midweek international duty - Sansom, Anderson, Whiteside and McClair for United. Thomas, who had to be substituted while playing for the England



Under-21 team in midweek because of influenza, has also reported fit for Arsenal.

But even the highly-charged atmosphere at Highbury is likely to be several thousand volts less than that which crackles at St James' Park, where electrocution would be an attractive alternative to teams less courageous and nervous than Wimbledon. The graphic description of Jones's insensitive treatment of Gascoigne, the new Newcastle idol, has not, however, alienated the whole population of Tyneside. A group of Newcastle supporters have retained sufficient humour to present Gascoigne with a cricket bat before kick-off.

What went on at Plough Lane a fortnight ago between the two players was hardly cricket, or football come to that, as Jones conceded yesterday: "It's not the most enjoyable way of playing but it's very effective." Jones, who said he got the idea of stepping in front of Gascoigne from watching a film of Nobby Stiles marking Eusebio in the 1966 World Cup, added: "Quite honestly, I don't like playing against clever players like Gascoigne very much. I prefer to play against someone like Whiteside who you can really get stuck in against."

It is hardly the sort of artistic environment one would expect to find at Plough Lane, of Real Madrid and England fame, who could make his debut for Wimbledon. Newcastle await fitness reports, none too optimistically, on Goddard and McCree.

The latter's Northern Ireland colleagues, Donaghy and Wilson, have returned in good time from Athens after being delayed by an air traffic controllers' strike to boost Luton Town's challenge against Queen's Park Rangers. Loftus Road's synthetic pitch should be like home from home for Luton.

Assuming that Watford prove defensively too strong for Port Vale, the best chance of an upset is at Fratton Park where Portsmouth, fretting over huge financial debts, can hardly be in the best frame of mind to withstand the demands of ambitious Bradford City.

More football, page 39

## Chirac blunder on 1998 World Cup

By Ian Stafford

The French Prime Minister, M Jacques Chirac, yesterday caused severe embarrassment to the French football federation - and possibly damaged his presidential claims - by announcing that the 1998 World Cup finals will be staged in France.

With the French presidential elections in May and June, Chirac said at an election address in Dijon: "We will have the 1998 World Cup finals in France. I have already negotiated the matter with the president of FIFA, Joel Havelange, and we have the 1998 World Cup. This is why I have already foreseen the investment needed for an appropriate stadium."

Chirac's statement was surprising because the World Cup finals are awarded to a country after a vote by the 24-

## Improving local grounds

By John Goodbody

The Football Trust is to spend an additional £2 million this year on building and improving local authority pitches and changing rooms in England.

The Trust, which is funded by Littlewoods, Vernons and Zetters Pools from their sports-hall competition, has asked the Sports Council to ensure that areas suffering social and economic deprivation be given special consideration for funding.

The Trust has also reached agreement with its sister organization, the Football Grounds Improvement Trust, to give financial support for essential safety work, if required, for the GM Vauxhall Conference club gaining promotion to the Football League.



Championship smile: Marina Kiehl, of West Germany, learns that she has won the downhill

## Aggressive Kiehl conquers Nakiska and fancied rivals

From Iain Macleod

Marina Kiehl, the West German "lioness", so called because she is a member of the famous 1860 München Club, "the Lions", defeated the steep, treacherous slopes of Nakiska yesterday and won the women's Olympic downhill ski race. It was her first downhill victory.

Kiehl, aged 23, better known for her prowess in the technical disciplines, skied the race of her life on the 2,238-metre Mount Allan course. Her time of 1min 25.86sec was a remarkable three quarters of a second ahead of the silver medal winner, Brigitte Oertli, of Switzerland. Karen Percy, of Canada, was third.

Oertli's silver, however, could not hide what was a blow to the leading Swiss. The favourite, the defending champion, Michela Figini, finished only ninth, and the world champion, Maria Walliser, illustrating the gap between the three medal winners and the rest of the field, missed out on a bronze by more than a second. The Swiss, it seemed, unusually for them, had got the waxing wrong.

The high winds that had plagued Nakiska all week had moderated sufficiently to al-

low the race to proceed, although with further bad weather forecast it was brought forward from noon to 10 a.m., local time.

The steep vertical drop of 647 metres with its awesome turns made for spectacular television; it demanded of the skiers an extremely high level of technical ability. Walliser, for instance, almost came to grief only metres from the finish.

But cometh the hour, cometh the woman. Kiehl, despite having made a number of mistakes at the top, suddenly produced the most controlled display of aggressive skiing she is ever likely to do. She came down to the disappointment of the large Canadian crowd to eclipse by 0.76sec the time of Percy, who had just finished.

It then became a question of the agony and the ecstasy. Kiehl, her face racked with an emotional mixture of a disbelieving joy and the anxiety that the gold was not yet hers, remarked with tears welling in her eyes: "I've lost so many races." She had no cause to speak further. We all knew what she meant.

Oertli and Laurie Graham, of Canada, were still to come.

The Swiss lost time on the top part and although she made up some fractions in the latter part of the course, it did not prove sufficient. The West German could barely watch.

Kiehl's greatest moment was upon her. She had previously won World Cup giant slalom (1985) and super-giant slalom (1986) titles but this was the crowning moment of her career. "I had so many problems at the top of the course," she said. "It was really wild and windy. I can hardly believe this has happened. I am so happy."

The Canadians were appalled by Percy's medal but the Swiss, in spite of Oertli's silver, appear to have most to reproach themselves about. The best placed Briton, the Calgary-born Wendy Lumby, finished 22nd. Clare Booth was 25th and Ingrid Grant did not start.

Figini said: "The wind bothered me. It's not fair. But the conditions were the same for all the races." Walliser, for whom the race represented a last chance of Olympic gold, was honest enough to say: "My race wasn't the kind that gives you an Olympic medal."

Olympic results, page 39

## The struggle to keep track of the drug cheats

From David Miller, Calgary



The severe warning by Juan Antonio Samaranch on drug abuse at the IOC session before the opening of the Winter Olympic Games may have come vainly in the wake of a new drug, as yet undetectable. It is horrifyingly said to be able to increase endurance performance, for instance in cross country skiing, by as much as nine per cent.

The alarming indications are that the IOC medical commission, and its drug testing laboratories around the world, are fighting a battle against cheats which at present they cannot win. These Games are rife with allegations of conventional blood doping - the removal of a quantity of a competitor's blood and its purification and reinsertion the day before a race, giving additional red corpuscles, oxygen-absorbing capacity. There is no test for this abuse, either.

The new drug is erythropoietin, which is used to resist kidney failure. It is being researched at a hospital here by Dr Henry Mandia, the head of renal medicine. Prince Alexandre de Merode, the chairman of the IOC medical commission, says that EPO, as it is known, could be on the open market, under prescription, within a few months.

It is manufactured in the United States, West Germany and Japan and is thought possibly to be already in use as a performance additive. "We have no positive evidence and we have no test as yet," Merode says.

Injection of EPO, it is alleged, can replace and simplify blood doping. All detectable traces would anyway have disappeared within 48 hours of injection. This raises, as does blood doping, the appalling scenario of competitors being required to take blood tests before, as well as immediately after, an event.

There has in the past been resistance to blood testing on religious and moral grounds. Merode says: "Now that people understand the problem better, we would probably be able to establish blood testing when we have the evidence that it is necessary. But for the moment there is doubt about our (scientific) ability to test."

All that can be done at present is the degrading procedure of inspecting an athlete's body for injection puncture marks. This system was used by the medical commission, with no positive results, on the day that Marty Hall, Canada's cross country coach, obligingly accused the medal-winning Soviet women's cross country skiers of blood doping.

Hall's accusation has caused a political storm between Canada and Russia, with Otin Jelinek, Canada's minister of sport, apologizing to Marat Gromov, his Soviet counterpart, who is also chairman of the Soviet National Olympic Committee. Hall has been disciplined and his comments condemned by Merode. But Hall remains adamant: "I just want to see something done," he says. "Sport in the world right now is a mess - not just the Olympics, but professional sport."

Two Soviet medal winners, Tamara Tikhonova and Vida Ventsene, denied using blood doping. But yesterday Hall's comments were given support by a former colleague, Anders Lenes, a former Norwegian cross country skiing champion.

Lenes, who coached the Canadian team in 1984 at Sarajevo, alleges that he accidentally witnessed the blood doping of Ali Karvonen, a Finnish silver medal winner. He says that he and a West German walked through the wrong door into the Finnish team's suite. "We walked in and there it was," Lenes said. "What do you do? You can't run and get the police."

Karvonen has since admitted blood doping in an interview with the American magazine *Sports Illustrated*. Blood doping was made illegal only in 1985. Karvonen was competing again here yesterday. Lenes claims to have been told by a Czechoslovak coach that the Czechoslovak had a drug to replace blood doping: EPO. It has also been revealed, following the Los Angeles summer games, that US cyclists, who were taken ill and unable to compete, had been blood doped. Merode has the evidence.

His commission is confronted by scientific advances moving faster than detection methods can keep pace. "We need, as much as anything, the collaboration of governments," Merode says. France and Norway have legislation against trafficking. Norwegian customs have detained Polish and Belgian athletes carrying steroids. In the same way that David Jenkins, who is awaiting trial in San Diego, was smuggling steroids from Mexico to America.

It is hoped to have IOC legislation on trafficking in time for the Seoul Olympics. "The final proposals should be passed at the Seoul IOC session," Merode says. "There will be a life ban for anyone who is caught. Trafficking is always the same scenario - a triangle of a doctor, a chemist supplier and an athlete."

In the Soviet Union steroids are available to any chemist. "However, I have some indications that the Soviet Union is anxious to remove this situation," Merode says.

## Passport dilemma

Barrington Williams, the British long jump champion, was prevented from competing in the European indoor championships yesterday by the Home Office, despite being already selected for the national squad, because he is unable to gain a British passport.

Williams, who will compete in the 60 metres at the event, which begins on March 5 in Budapest, must wait at least 18 months before the Home Office will grant him naturalization. The Government's delay means that Williams is also prevented from the chance of competing in the Olympic Games in Seoul.

## Faldo assists

The Golf Foundation has received a £700 bonus following a fund-raising appeal launched by Nick Faldo, the Open champion, at Walsley Garden City, his former club.



Baiocchi heads the field

**Baiocchi leads**  
Germiston (Reuter) - Hugh Baiocchi, of South Africa, held a one-stroke lead over Mark James, of Britain, after the third round of the Sunshine circuit golf tournament yesterday.

## Europe enters

The Transatlantic challenge motorcycle race will become the Euroatlantic challenge this year with the inclusion of a team of European riders in the annual Easter match between Britain and the United States.

## Bates triumph

Jeremy Bates, the British No. 1, beat Thomas Haldin, of Sweden, 7-6, 6-1 yesterday in the final of the LTA men's indoor satellite tennis tournament at Telford.

## Silver signs

Andrew Silver, aged 21, the England international speedway rider, has joined Swindon from Arena Essex, in an exchange loan deal involving David Smart.

## Dutch treat

Castellon, Spain (AP) - Mathius Hermans, of The Netherlands, won the third leg of the Tour of Valencia cycling race yesterday, as Erich Maechler, of Switzerland, kept the yellow jersey as overall leader.

## Johnson doubt

Toronto (Reuter) - Ben Johnson, the world 100m champion, who is recovering from a thigh injury, will miss the Canadian indoor championships, and may pass up the rest of the indoor season.

## Beleaguered Edwards in need of a minder

From Chris Moore

The British Olympic Association were last night making arrangements to provide the ski jumper, Eddie Edwards, with a personal manager for the rest of the Winter Olympic Games.

The decision was prompted by chaotic scenes at a local nightclub, where Edwards had been invited for a private meal with his parents.

His appearance had been advertised for the previous two days in a local newspaper to help publicize what was billed as a Las Vegas-style cabaret. But the BOA had been assured that there would be a ban on the media. However, as soon as Edwards arrived hordes of reporters and television crews were allowed in.

Caroline Searle, the BOA press officer, said: "It was a clear case of exploitation and this is what is concerning us. We feel Eddie should be looked after properly. He is obviously concerned

about the bad publicity which is suddenly coming his way. But he is just the same person he was when he arrived here, except that he is now caught up in all the hype."

"The BOA are also in the middle of it because we are still inundated with enquiries and messages for Eddie. There were over 80 messages for him on the Info 88 Olympic computer this morning. We have four people answering telephone enquiries in our office and at least 60 per cent of calls are for Eddie."

"We have already agreed to a request for assistance from the British Ski Federation by loaning them one of our management team, Simon Clegg, who came here as our quartermaster. But it's clear he needs to have a full-time manager." It was later announced that Ed McNally, a Calgary lawyer, had taken the job on the recommendation of Sir Rodney Touche, the British team attaché.

## Showdown at the Corral

From John Hennessy

Battle is truly joined between the two Brits, the Canadian Orser and the American Boitano, in the Olympic men's figure skating championships. By finishing first and second respectively in the short programme in Calgary's Stampede Corral they dislodged Aleksandr Fadeyev, of the Soviet Union, from first place, and it is virtually a straight fight between the two in tonight's free skating.

Boitano, the world champion in Geneva in 1986, has taken the lead on 2.0 points, with Orser, the winner last year in Cincinnati, the minimal margin of two tenths of a point behind.

Fadeyev, the world champion in 1985, missed his triple axel/double loop combination and, with 4.2, he would need not only to beat both Brits but also to rely on another skater doing the same.

It was a brilliant men's short programme, probably the best there has ever been, with the triple axel as essential to a successful combination jump

as the mandatory double loop.

Both Orser and Boitano executed all seven elements superbly and Orser was given first place on the strength of his presentation.

Boitano's programme was choreographed by Sandra Bezic, a Canadian incidentally, and bore clear evidence of her admiration for John Curry's style, as well as his music ("Les Patineurs").

The judges split marginally in Boitano's favour on required elements and heavily, by 8-1, in favour of Orser on presentation. A word must be said in support of that second minority of one, even if it happened to come from Boitano's compatriot on the judging panel. Overall only two judges preferred Boitano, the American being joined by the Soviet.

Not that it matters statistically. Had Boitano been placed first the rearrangement of the points would not have

changed the present situation, whereby whichever of the two wins the free skating (assuming nobody else intervenes) will win, with it, the gold medal.

There is no cause for Boitano to tear his hair, since he won the world title in 1986 from precisely the same position after losing the short programme to Orser.

The order of skating of the top three tonight is Boitano, Fadeyev and Orser which suits both North Americans, since the United States skater prefers to go first and the Canadian last.

Other outstanding performances came from Viktor Petrenko (Soviet Union), Grzegorz Filipowski (Poland), Kurt Browning (Canada) and Christopher Bowman (US). Paul Robinson, the British champion, fell disastrously on the triple flip in the jump combination and could not attempt the double loop.